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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Should periodic drug testing be made mandatory for all law enforcement personnel?

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29 Fund members terminate health insurance coverage. PAGE 3

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The CNMI's third signatory airline is expanding its route to China, with Dynamic Airways' announcement that it will launch charter flights to Saipan from Tianjin, Wuhan, and Hangzhou later this month.

To this end, the Greensboro, North Carolina-based charter carrier will be stationing two Boeing 767-200 aircraft on Saipan to support the growth of the tourism industry on the island, with potential for more in the near future.

"In conjunction with our partners in China, CITS [China International Travel Service] and through our travel agency Century Tours, we are proud to build on the successes of the China market into Saipan and continue to grow the most important industry to our economy, tourism," said Century Tours president Jerry Tan.

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Kilili: I wish we could all get along

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's 59th birthday and fundraiser on Sunday night brought together longtime friends, supporters, and a slew of politicians from opposite ends of the local political spectrum. Sablan is running for a fourth term in Congress.

"I wish we all could get along," Sablan said of his birthday wish as he met and greeted visitors at the Pacific Islands Club seaside Sunday night.

Sablan (Ind-MP), the CNMI's first and so far only nonvoting delegate to

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Charter flights from 3 cities in China to start this month



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Chinese tourists pose with team members at the Adventure Zone of the Kanoa Resort on Saipan. The CNMI will see an even bigger increase in the number of Chinese tourists with Dynamic Airways' announcement of new charter flights from Tianjin, Wuhan, and Hangzhou later this month.

OPM: No money, no random drug tests

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Except for the Department of Public Works, which has just transferred \$700 to the Office of Personnel Management to enforce random drug testing among its staff, no other CNMI government agency is expected to have

its personnel undergo such test—at least in the near future.

In fact, OPM director Isidro Seman confirmed that in the past year or so, no government agency—including those in law enforcement—had undergone random drug testing because of lack of funds to do so.

"Money is always an issue... For fis-

cal year 2014, we asked for a substantial amount for random drug test but we had to sacrifice that because of limited funding. And if there's any money going to drug testing, it should be in our account where it's been in the past," Seman told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview on Friday afternoon.

The Legislature has also not set aside funding so that OPM can administer ran-

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» **DPW transfers \$700 to OPM for random drug testing**

Money is always an issue... For fis-



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Local

7 lawmakers with perfect session attendance in 2013

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Seven lawmakers attended all regular and special legislative sessions in 2013, but some with a few absences said getting involved in actual deliberations and voting with their conscience during the sessions they were present makes up for the few sessions they missed.

In the 20-member House of Representatives, four had perfect attendance: Reps. Roman Benavente (Ind-Saipan), George Camacho (R-Saipan), Antonio Sablan (Ind-Saipan) and Mario Taitano (Ind-Saipan).

They attended all 28 regular and special sessions.

"Attending sessions is very important. It is where decisions affecting our people are made. So we try to be there for the people we represent. There are always valid reasons for missing a session, be it illness or other official matters. However, we should always try to prioritize attending sessions," Camacho told *Saipan Tribune*.

Among House members, Rep. Ralph Yumul (Ind-Saipan) had the most number of absences marked "excused" at six, based on House records.

Yumul said last night he had

back surgery in July. He said having the most number of absences does not make anyone less effective as a lawmaker. Yumul actively participates in issue and bill deliberations during sessions.

He was followed by Reps. Felicidad Ogumoro (R-Saipan) and Janet Maratita (Ind-Saipan) with four "excused" absences each.

Reps. Teresita Santos (R-Rota) and Richard Seman (R-Saipan) had three "excused" absences each.

The rest had either one or two absences from January to December 2013. Many of those with absences in the House

went off-island for official and personal reasons.

In the nine-member Senate, three had perfect attendance: Sen. Francisco Borja (Ind-Tinian), Senate vice president Victor Hocog (R-Rota), and Sen. Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota). Manglona, however, was sworn in only in November to fill a vacancy, but nevertheless attended all the sessions since then. Borja and Hocog attended all 29 regular and special Senate sessions.

Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) and Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) had the most number of absences at three each.

Torres said last night that not having a perfect attendance does not make anyone less of a lawmaker. He said in his case, the sessions he missed were "emergency" ones "to address issues that were needed while I was away attending to personal matters."

Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian) had two excused absences toward the end of 2013.

Former senator Juan M. Ayuyu did not attend any session from January 2013 up to the time he resigned effective Oct. 1, while waiting for sentencing in connection with smuggling endangered fruit bats

from Rota to Saipan.

Moreover, former Senate president Jude U. Hofschneider attended all first four sessions of 2013 until he ascended to become lieutenant governor on Feb. 20 when former governor Benigno R. Fitial resigned just before his impeachment trial at the Senate. Former lieutenant governor Eloy S. Inos became governor that same day.

Sen. Joaquin Borja (Ind-Tinian), meanwhile, was sworn in as a senator only in March, to fill the vacancy left by Hofschneider. Nevertheless, he attended 22 of 23 sessions since he was sworn in.

Regents raise concern over NMC plan to reclassify alien students' residency

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Board of Regents members initially objected to a proposed reclassification of international students at the Northern Marianas College, saying the move would result in a drop in the college's revenue.

Board Policy No. 4001, which deals with the residency classification of students, has been on the board's table for quite some time now. This proposed policy recommends that NMC's international students be allowed to pay a tuition rate similar to that paid by resident students.

NMC's longstanding policy requires international enrollees to pay a tuition rate of \$190 per credit—almost double the amount assessed resident students, which is \$95 per credit.

Student Services dean Leo Pangelinan disclosed that under the existing policy, international students must enroll for three

consecutive years before they are assessed the resident tuition rate.

At present, the college has 39 international students from Korea, Japan, China, and the Philippines.

Based on the board's initial calculation, NMC stands to lose \$44,000-plus if all 39 international students begin to pay the

resident tuition rate.

NMC president Dr. Sharon Y. Hart pointed out, however, that the projected loss is considered "minimal" compared to the benefits that the college would gain if NMC is able to keep all 39 students in its fold.

She said the projected \$44,000 potential loss may also

be a higher projection, considering that not all 39 students now pay the \$190 per credit charge. Some of them, she said, are already on their third year and are assessed the lower tuition.

"So in my opinion, the amount is really minimal," said Hart.

During Friday's board meeting, Pangelinan said the policy change aims to improve the college's retention rates. He believes that NMC will benefit more from this proposed policy because it would attract more international students, besides being able to keep what it has.

According to board fiscal committee chair William Torres, the proposed policy should be put on hold until all pertinent data the committee asked from the management is received and reviewed.

"I would like to reiterate the feelings of the members. We're concerned on what really is the fiscal impact of this proposed policy. Should this recommendation move forward, I know that immediate impact is reduction in the college revenue but at the same time it will stabilize and impact the retention rates. Now, I don't know whether that is enough to offset the reduction in potential revenues," said Torres, adding that the board has to be data-informed before a decision is made on the subject.

NMC board chair Frank Rauliman admitted that the residency classification proposal has been going back and forth between the committee and the management for more than a year now. The lack of data to justify the proposal, he said, has always been the concern of board members.

"I am afraid we never moved forward with this issue because there was no fiscal impact report that has been provided to the panel," he said.

He asked the NMC president to come up with the data at the next board meeting.

Hart assured the board that more data would be turned in next month.



BEST BEACH

Tourists enjoy a banana boat ride from Managaha Island back to Saipan shore on Saturday. Managaha, a sandy islet within the reef-fringed Saipan lagoon, bagged the "Best Beach and Snorkeling" award for the 10th straight year in 2013 at the Marine Diving Fair in Japan. Also a marine conservation area, Managaha remains one of the most popular tourist attractions in the CNMI year-round.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Judge denies ex-convict's motion to acquit

By FERGIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona reiterated her initial ruling that denied a motion to acquit Jesus S. Palacios, an ex-convict in Guam who was found guilty last month of charges filed on Saipan for possession of two guns and 27 bullets.

In a written order issued last week, Manglona pointed out that ample evidence shows that Palacios knowingly possessed some of the firearms and ammunition alleged in each count of the indictment.

Manglona said Palacios, through counsel Mark Scog-

gins, challenges the sufficiency of the evidence as to each element of the six counts for which he was convicted, but makes no argument whatsoever as to why the evidence was insufficient for the U.S. government to meet its burden on any particular element of any of the counts.

The judge noted that after the U.S. government laid out how the evidence supports the jury's verdict on each element of each count, Palacios did not counter any of the government's arguments in a reply brief.

"In short, defendant has not given the court any reason to think that its denial of his oral motion for judgment of acquit-

tal, made at the close of the government's case, was misguided," she said.

Palacios asked for a judgment of acquittal on Dec. 3, after the prosecution rested its case during a jury trial. His argument focused on the sufficiency of the evidence to support a finding that he had knowingly possessed the firearms and ammunition in question. Manglona denied the motion orally.

On Dec. 4, the jury returned a guilty verdict against the 52-year-old Palacios on all six counts—three counts of being a felon in possession of a firearm or ammunition, and three counts of being an unlawful user of a

controlled substance in possession of a firearm or ammunition.

On Dec. 18, Palacios filed a motion for judgment of acquittal.

In a written order denying the motion, Manglona pointed out that Palacios has not contested that he was a felon at the time of the alleged possession.

Manglona said that Palacios agreed that he is a convicted felon, and that stipulation was read to the jury.

As to Palacios being an unlawful user of a controlled substance, the judge cited the testimony of the wife, a detective, and a forensic chemist with the Drug Enforcement Administration.

"From this evidence, the jury could reasonably infer that defendant used methamphetamine regularly, over an extended pe-

riod of time, and contemporaneously with his possession of the firearms and ammunition," Manglona said.

Palacios will be sentenced on March 14, 2014.

The filing of the indictment arose from an incident in April 2013 when police arrested Palacios for allegedly beating up his wife in front of their child and pointing a gun at her head when she refused to give him money.

The then 4-year-old boy told police that he witnessed the beating of his mother and that he also saw his father smoke "ice" and has four guns.

Police learned that Palacios was arrested in Guam in 1997 and charged with murder, manslaughter, and possession of a gun without an ID. He pleaded guilty to manslaughter.

29 Fund members terminate health insurance coverage

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Some members of the government's Group Health and Life Insurance Program have refused to accept the new premium rates imposed by Aetna International, the program's health insurance provider.

Acting NMI Retirement Fund administrator Lil-

lian Pangelinan disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* that 29 members have so far elected to terminate their membership from the health insurance program.

Fund records indicate that 14 active members and 15 retirees decided to stop their health insurance coverage during the months of January and February—the extension period approved by the government with

the insurance provider.

Pangelinan said these numbers may still change. The deadline for retirees to terminate their membership is today, Jan. 21. Active members had until Jan. 15 to do so.

Saipan Tribune learned that the 29 members covered three islands.

Since Jan. 1, 2014, the premium rates for GHLIP members increased by 40 percent pursuant to the new contract signed between the Inos administration and Aetna International. The contract is just a 60-day extension.

Retirees and active government employees who accepted the new premium rate will start paying the higher charges by the end of this month.

The CNMI government pays 50 percent share of the health insurance policy of members; the other half is paid by Fund members.

The amount of new deductibles include \$300 for single, \$600 for couple, and \$900 for family category.

The Inos administration earlier said the Aetna contract was extended to give the Executive Branch more time to find another health insurance policy that would be in the best interest of members and the government.

If Aetna is selected as the official health insurance provider for 2014, the amounts paid by members and retirees toward their deductibles during the extension period will be credited to their deductible

under the new policy beginning March 1, 2014.

Fund records show that there are approximately 2,400 individuals who benefit from the health coverage plan.

Pangelinan earlier emphasized that retirees who terminate their health insurance coverage will not be able to re-enroll in the government's health insurance program.

The Group Health Life Insurance Program is a benefit program of the government

that is run by the Retirement Fund administrator. Aetna International has been servicing its members' health insurance for many years. Its contract expired on Dec. 31, 2013.

Govt's delayed allotments to PSS now at \$2.2M in Q1 of FY 2014

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Just three months into the current fiscal year, public schools are already encountering financial shortages due to delayed allotments from the local government, according to finance director Derek Sasamoto.

As of Friday, the Public School System has already incurred a \$2.2 million shortfall due to delayed remittances from the Finance Department. The last time Finance cut a check for PSS was on Dec. 25, 2013, amounting to \$250,000, he said.

In his report to the Board of Education on Friday, Sasamoto said that PSS was promised a weekly allotment of \$616,136 from Finance. He disclosed that, as of Dec. 16, total allotment received was at \$5.15 million. On Christmas Day, another disbursement of \$250,000 was made.

"We're still incomplete in November allotments and to date, the shortfall is a little over \$2.2 million," Sasamoto said.

He assured, though, that he is in constant communication with Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson and that she had promised to catch up by this month.

Saipan Tribune learned that other government agencies receiving funds from the general fund are also experiencing delays in their weekly allotments. Many are behind by five weeks.

When asked by board member Marylou Ada how PSS has managed its finances considering it is incurring a significant shortfall this early, Sasamoto said PSS has no choice but to age its receivables and cut its daily expenses.

"We're managing our cash flow. We're aging invoices as much as up to 30 days (allowed) and we're prioritizing our expenses," Sasamoto said.

Besides these measures, he

said they are using some reimbursements that should have gone back to its general fund in the past but was never done. He said these reimbursements helped in the cash flow situation of the system and a portion was used to pay previous liabilities. The amounts of these reimbursements were not disclosed.

Sasamoto said the delayed allotments are also affecting school operations. "Even schools, unfortunately, are holding back on all expenses they would like."

PSS has been allocated \$33.039 million for fiscal year 2014, from Oct. 1, 2013, to Sept. 30, 2014. Included in this amount is \$177,140 in Compact Impact funding and \$500,000 in contract worker's fees. The PSS budget is broken down as follows: \$28.5 million for personnel; \$2.3 million for all others; and \$2.2 million for utilities.

Pursuant to the law, 1 percent of the PSS budget must be remitted to the Office of Public Auditor. This results in a reduction of \$323,627 in the PSS budget.

Sasamoto said that because of OPA's 1-percent cut, PSS has to reduce its budget for personnel from \$28.5 million to \$28.216 million.

As of Dec. 16, 2013, only \$26.8 million remains in the PSS budget. For personnel, total expended as of December is \$4.6 million, leaving a balance of \$23.5 million. Of \$2.2 million budget for all others, total expenditure incurred is \$759,610, leaving a balance of \$1.4 million.

For utilities, PSS was budgeted \$2.3 million; \$428,000 has already been spent for November and December billings. This leaves a balance of \$1.8 million for the rest of the fiscal year.

Sasamoto said the November and December billings reflect the new rate for PSS water and wastewater.

Navy training at Warning Area 517

The U.S. Navy will conduct training at Warning Area 517 on Jan. 21 to 24, from 8am to midnight. The training will be conducted north of 12° 40'N in the Warning Area.

The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank. (PR)

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Crew of sinking 500-foot ship rescued in Pacific

Coast Guard watchstanders in Guam identified four merchant vessels to provide assistance under the Automated Mutual Assistance Vessel Rescue System.

The Coast Guard cutters *Assateague* and *Sequoia* were deployed from Guam but were 18 hours away.

At 1:21pm, the *Rich Forest's* crew entered life rafts and abandoned ship.

At 4:40pm, the AMVER vessel *CS Sunshine* completed the

rescue of all survivors from life rafts and safely brought them aboard without incident. The crew of the *Rich Forest* will be taken aboard the *Assateague* once it arrives on scene. The *CS Sunshine* will continue on to its next port of call in Japan.

The *Rich Forest* remains unpowered and adrift. The Coast Guard will be issuing a broadcast notice to mariners to warn any ships in the area of the hazard to navigation and to report

the location of the adrift vessel.

AMVER, sponsored by the U.S. Coast Guard, is a unique, computer-based, and voluntary global ship reporting system used worldwide by search and rescue authorities to arrange for assistance to persons in distress at sea. With AMVER, rescue coordinators can identify participating ships in the area of distress and divert the best-suited ship or ships to respond. Prior to sailing, participating ships send

a sail plan to the AMVER computer center. Vessels then report every 48 hours until arriving at their port of call. This data is able to project the position of each ship at any point during its voyage. In an emergency, any rescue coordination center can request this data to determine the relative position of AMVER ships near the distress location. On any given day there are over 3,700 ships available to carry out search and rescue services. (*USCG*)

OPM

From Page 1

dom drug testing.

A drug test costs some \$30 per person on Saipan.

For OPM to ensure random drug testing among agencies, the agency needs at least \$14,000 to \$15,000 a year, Seman said.

"This is just a rough estimate," he added.

OPM, in consultation with agencies or departments, gets to pick the personnel to be randomly tested and when. It is the agency that oversees the government's drug testing program.

A House bill now pending at the Senate would require mandatory drug testing among law enforcement agencies such as the Department of Public Safety and the Division of Customs

Services, although funding that could still be a hindrance.

DPW Secretary Martin Sablan separately confirmed yesterday that DPW has identified \$700 that could be used for random drug testing so it has been working with OPM.

"That's because we haven't done any random drug testing in a long time. So when we identified \$700 in available funds, we thought we can again have random drug testing," Sablan said.

Seman confirmed DPW provided OPM funding so that the department's personnel can be randomly tested for drugs.

"It is also important that safety-sensitive employee positions are tested," Seman added.

He was referring to those personnel operating heavy equipment and those operating school buses.

DPS Commissioner James

Deleon Guerrero and Customs Services Division director Joe Mafnas earlier told senators none of their personnel underwent random drug testing at least in the last year.

OPM's Seman confirmed this on Friday, pointing to the lack of government funding to pay the private clinics that administer the actual drug test.

Neither DPS nor Customs asked OPM for random drug testing over the last year.

Customs let go of two employees on its own when it got suspicious of drug-related activities by its employees. Mafnas said one of them admitted to drug use. One of the two that was let go was allegedly selling drugs.

DPS police officers, for its part, have figured in drug-related cases and reports. Despite these, no one at the department

underwent random drug testing during at least 2013.

Seman echoed the DPS and Customs chiefs' concerns that due to the nature of police officers and customs officers' duties and responsibilities, all of them need to undergo mandatory drug testing.

"I'm with the [DPS] commissioner that it should be done 100 percent for law enforcement. I support that bill. I also agree that it should not only apply to law enforcement but also to those safety-sensitive positions or jobs like for those operating heavy equipment and school buses like DPW, [Commonwealth Utilities Corp.], [Public School System] and the mayor's office," Seman added.

Independent agencies and government corporations such as CUC get to fund their own drug testing, Seman added.

House last year.

So far, no one else has made known his or her intention to run as delegate in the November general elections.

Besides ensuring more federal funds and new federal funds for education, the environment, healthcare, and food stamp, Sablan has also worked on addressing immigration issues that affect the CNMI, including an improved status for long-term legal aliens. This also comes at a time when many U.S. lawmakers are also trying to grant a pathway to citizenship for some 11 million undocumented aliens in America.

Sablan has always been attacked on immigration in every election but he said voters "can see through that."

Meanwhile, Sablan said he has not received word from the U.S. Labor secretary yet on the CNMI's request for an extension of the Commonwealth-only worker program beyond Dec. 31, 2014. A decision is expected any time soon.

He said he has talked to the Labor secretary's deputies and his congressional office staff is in contact with the department staff "every week, to make sure the decision does not get lost on someone's desk."

Without an extension of the CW program expiring in a little more than 11 months, the CNMI will lose immediate access to some 10,000 foreign workers that the tourism-based economy has relied upon for decades.

Mini book sale at JKPL

Joeten-Kiyu Public Library is currently having a mini book sale at the state library's premises in Susupe.

JKPL circulations supervisor Ray Deleon Guerrero said the mini book sale is disposing of books ranging from adult non-fiction, adult fiction, paperback books, biographies, Asian books (Japanese, Chinese, and Korean books), as well as videos.

He said paperback and soft cover books could be had for a low as \$1 each, which is the same price for hardback non-fiction books. Hardback fiction books, meanwhile, are being sold for \$3. CDs and DVDs are retailing also for only \$1.

In addition to books and videos, JKPL is also selling quite a number of magazines from two years ago for a mere 10 cents a copy.

The magazine titles being sold include *Better Homes and Gardens*, *Bicycling*, *BRIDES*, *Consumer Reports*, *Crafts N' Things*, *Diabetic Living*, *Entertainment Weekly*, *Family Handyman*, *Golf Digest*, *Good Housekeeping*, *Islands*, *Just CrossStitch*, *Ladies Home Journal*, *Martha Stewart LIVING*, *Men's Health*, *Men's Journal*, *Natural Health*, *People Weekly*, *Reader's Digest*, *Redbook*, *Rolling Stone*, *Runner's World*, *Seventeen*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Successful Farming*, *Vegetarian Times*, *Vanity Fair*, *VOGUE*, and *Weight Watchers*.

For more information about the CNMI state library and its ongoing mini book sale, call the JKPL at 235-7316 or 7322 or visit its website, www.cnmilibrary.com. (*Mark Rabago*)

CHARTER

From Page 1

Century Tours, an internationally recognized travel and tour agency, has been working with Dynamic Airways for several months to bring the China charter flights to Saipan.

The two companies received word from the CAAC, the Civil Aviation Administration of China, earlier this week of the successful approval to secure charters to Saipan from Tianjin, Wuhan, and Hangzhou.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos congratulated Dynamic Airways and Century Tours for their latest foray into China.

"For several months now, the CNMI has been experiencing positive growth in our tourism industry and we intend to continue our efforts to promote our islands as a prime destination. I congratulate Dynamic Airways, Century Tours, and their partners for their efforts to begin charter services from three China cities. This is another big stride forward in our efforts to enhance our tourist industry and increase economic activity," Inos said.

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio echoed Inos' congratulations.

"We are excited to welcome these new chartered services from the three source cities in China to the Northern Marianas. These flights will augment the current scheduled and charter services being provided by other industry partners. The Marianas Visitors Authority looks forward to its collaboration with Century Tours and Dynamic Airways to continue the growth and contribution of Chinese visitors to the Northern Marianas' travel industry and economy," he said.

Alex Sablan, president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, said that Dynamic Airways and Century Tours' expansion into the China market only bodes well for the continued economic recovery of the CNMI.

"The Saipan Chamber of Commerce commends Century Tours, CITS, and Dynamic Airways for their effort to further grow the China market. Growth from all our source markets will enhance our economy, provide more jobs and infuse much needed new revenue into our economy," said Sablan. "We commend the MVA, Gov. Eloy S. Inos' administration and the 18th Legislature for their initiatives, support, and commitment to our only industry, tourism."

The launch of charter flights to Tianjin, Wuhan, and Hangzhou comes on the heels of Dynamic Airways' successful operation of charter services from Incheon, South Korea, since Oct. 23, 2013. The charters from Korea led to the stationing of one 767-200 aircraft on Saipan beginning October last year.

In addition to Dynamic Airways contributing to the increase in Korean arrivals in 2013, both Dynamic Airways and Century Tours believe these new China flights will "certainly complement the already rapid growth of Chinese arrivals into the beautiful and idyllic tropical destination of Saipan."

Based on an MVA report on visitor arrivals, the total number of Chinese visitor to the CNMI from January to November 2013 already breached the 100,000 plateau and the 107,379 arrivals in the first 11 months of last year represents an amazing 39-percent increase from figures in 2012.

According to a Jan. 20, 2014, report from Radio Australia, China's outbound tourism market is expected to increase to some 100 million in 2016.

Quoting John Kester of the United Nations World Tourism Organization, the report added that aside from an expected increase in Chinese global travelers in two years' time, their disposable income has also increased six-fold from below \$100 in 2000 to as much \$6,000 per head as of 2012.

KILILI

From Page 1

the U.S. House of Representatives, said "everyone needs to work together" and "have respect for one another" to further advance the local economy.

"We're all in this together," he added.

Among those in attendance at his birthday fundraiser were Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider, Attorney General Joey Patrick San Nicolas, senators, members of the House of Representatives, other former and current government officials, businessmen and other private citizens.

The \$200-per-person fundraiser also brought together members of the Republican Party, the Democratic Party, former Covenant Party members, and independents.

"I am grateful and humbled by the show of support this evening... It is beyond my expectation. Some people also made donations but couldn't come," he said.

Sen. Pete Reyes (Ind-Saipan) said Sablan has his full support. This statement was repeated by others in attendance.

Sablan, who got elected to office for the first time in the November 2008 race, said he is and will remain an independent.

"I don't work for political parties. I work for the people of the Northern Mariana Islands. When someone comes to my door with a problem, I don't ask



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) and his wife Andrea at Sablan's fundraising Sunday night at Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio.

them for what party they belong to. I ask them how I can help. And in Congress, I work with leadership and members on both sides of the aisle. That's how I get things done," he said.

As in the past three elections wherein Sablan did not directly endorse any other candidate or party, this time won't be different "although it's sometimes obvious who I support," he said.

"I know that I will have to work with the people the voters elect; and I don't want to start out with any bad feelings left over from the election. Plus I only have one vote. And Andrea and I usually sit down and discuss our choices and come to agreement on who we will vote for," he said.

Sablan said that even though he announced his candidacy, he would like everyone to

know that he has a day job—"working for the people of the Northern Marianas."

"So I may spend 5 percent of my time on the campaign for now, but the other 95 percent of my time will be spent working on legislation and problems that constituents bring to me," he said.

He had said that "experience and seniority make a member of Congress more effective," adding that the longer he is in Congress, "the more I can accomplish for the people of the Northern Mariana Islands, both in Congress and within the federal government agencies."

For example, the submerged lands bill that was Sablan's first piece of legislation introduced in 2009, took five years of pushing to get to the U.S. House and Senate and finally the White

FOR DENIAL OF CW-1 PERMIT, REQUEST FOR PAROLE-IN-PLACE

Company, mother of twin girls sue Napolitano, federal officials

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A private company and an alien worker, who is the mother of twin U.S. citizen girls born on Saipan, have filed a lawsuit in federal court against federal officials for denying her petition for CW-1 permit and request for parole-in-place.

KB Enterprises Inc. and Lucelle Mancia Lampera, through counsel Stephen C. Woodruff, are suing former U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services California Center Director Kathy A. Baran, and USCIS Field Office Director Stephen P. Green.

In the complaint filed in the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Friday, Woodruff asked the court to declare that the grant of parole status to Lampera un-

der the Nov. 23, 2011, USCIS policy for parole of immediate relatives of U.S. citizens in the CNMI is not disallowed by Lampera's prior admission to CW-1 status.

Woodruff wants the court to rule that the grant of parole status to alien immediate relatives of U.S. citizens is not precluded by a prior admission of such aliens, arguing that such preclusion is inconsistent with the declared objectives of Congress for the transition to federal immigration control in the CNMI.

The lawyer also asked the court to issue a declaratory judgment that the lawful presence requirement of the statute is not authorized by the Consolidated Natural Resources Act (federalization law) and is contrary to the congressionally-mandated performance standards for the transition period and is accordingly invalid and unenforceable.

Lampera first came to the CNMI as a nonresident worker under CNMI law in 1997. In 2001, at the end of her employment, she returned to the Philippines. In 2004, she came back to the CNMI as a visitor, continuing as a student, and finally again as a nonresident worker.

In all her years of residence in the CNMI, Woodruff said that Lampera maintained lawful status, a record that is "now threatened solely because of defendants' arbitrary, capricious, and legally erroneous implementation and administration of the transition program."

On Aug. 14, 2000, Lampera

gave birth to twin girls. Her U.S. citizen daughters presently reside with her in the CNMI, where she is raising them as a single parent.

In 2009, Lampera was issued an umbrella permit by the CNMI government. In 2011, she was petitioned for CW employment by Emperor Enterprises, owner of Furusato Restaurant and was granted a CW-1 permit on May 3, 2012.

A labor dispute arose with Lampera's employer over unpaid wages. Consequently, she left her employment and filed a complaint with the CNMI Department of Labor. The

complaint was filed on April 3, 2013, while her CW-1 status remained valid.

Woodruff said that Lampera immediately began looking for a new job and also asked USCIS Guam Field Office for parole-in-place based on the policy announced Nov. 23, 2011, offering this benefit to alien parents of U.S. citizens residing in the CNMI.

Woodruff said that KB Enterprises offered lampera a job and filed a CW-1 petition for her on June 12, 2013, a mere 41 days after the expiration date of her original I-94 (record of admission).

Woodruff said that, on Oct. 3, 2013, Baran denied the

CW-1 petition on the ground that the beneficiary, Lampera, failed to satisfy the lawful presence requirement.

On Nov. 1, 2013, Green denied Lampera's request for parole-in-place on the ground that she was ineligible on account of her prior admission to CW-1 status.

Woodruff said that by denying Lampera's request for parole-in-place and also failing or refusing to consider a grant of deferred status to Lampera, Green violated the congressionally-mandated performance standards for implementation of the transition program.

Armed man robs San Jose Mart

An unidentified man armed with a rifle robbed the San Jose Mart in San Jose early yesterday morning.

The suspect, described as a light-skinned male with long hair and about 5'7" to 5'9" tall, managed to run off with \$380 from the cash register, police said.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Travis Hurst said that crime scene technicians obtained from the scene the rifle that the suspect used.

Hurst said police officers responded to San Jose Mart at about 3:31am yesterday after receiving a call about an armed robbery.

Hurst said that during an interview with the cashier, she stated that she was sweeping the floor when she heard some-

one running inside the store and shouting, "Give me the money! Give me the money!"

When the cashier turned around, she saw the suspect pointing a rifle at her. In fear, the cashier relinquished money from her cash register to the suspect.

Hurst said the surveillance video obtained from the store verifies the witness accounts.

"Anyone with information about this armed robbery is asked to call the Department of Public Safety or the Commonwealth Bureau of Investigation at (670) 664-9001 or (670) 664-9062," he said.

The report did not mention whether the suspect used a getaway vehicle.

If a robbery involves a gun, federal agents usually step into the investigation.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

IN APPRECIATION

CNMI Nursing Association officials led by president Rowena Alturas, second from left, present a plaque of appreciation to Bridge Capital LLC during a ceremony last week for the company's continued assistance to the association's activities and initiatives. Accepting the plaque is the company's office manager and chief asset manager, Allen Perez, third from right.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB 14-DLNR/DFW-046 (ROTA)

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: JANUARY 30, 2014
TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**"OFFICE SPACE LEASE FOR THE DEPT. OF LANDS AND NATURAL
RESOURCES, DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE - ROTA BRANCH"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE LESSOR MUST COMPLY WITH CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A) - (D)

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ **ARNOLD L. PALACIOS**
SECRETARY OF DLNR

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB 14-DPW/SWMD-054

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: FEBRUARY 06, 2014
TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**"CONTAINER BIN RENTAL WITH ROLL-OFF TRUCK FOR SIX (6) MONTHS FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS - SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DIVISION"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/s/ **MARTIN C. SABLAN**
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

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FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

**NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING
CORPORATION,**
Plaintiff,

-v-

ELLEN S. PITEG,
Defendant.

SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on May 15, 2012, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot No. 011 G 547, situated in Kagman III, Phase I, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 800 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 11, dated December 1, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 93-4179, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, January 24, 2014, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 24th day of December, 2013:

/s/MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

Allen I. Palacios,
Petitioner,

Vs.

Carmelita T. Palacios,
Respondent.

) FCD-DI
) CIVIL ACTION
) NO. 13-0625
) **SUMMONS FOR
PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 502739 Saipan MP, 96950 as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

DATED, this 26th day of December, 2013:

/s/ Clerk of Court

DISCONNECTION NOTICE

IT&E would like to remind its customers that payments not received by close of business on **January 21**, will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00 p.m. on that day. To prevent temporary suspension, customers must pay their bills on or before **January 21**.

**THIS WILL BE THE
ONLY NOTIFICATION
IT&E CUSTOMERS WILL RECEIVE**

You have the right to dispute this notice. You must state your claim in person or in writing no later than **January 21**. You must pay any amount not in dispute to avoid disconnection. Payment denotes acceptance of all charges.

If you have questions regarding billing or service, Please call Customer Service at **682-4ITE (4483)** or Visit any IT&E CS Center nearest you.

Life in Motion

To avoid disconnection you may pay your IT&E bill at any location below:

SHELL Service Stations — up to 4:00pm
Chalan Lamlau — up to 6:00pm
Tinian/Rota Office — up to 4:30pm
TSL Plaza — up to 6:00pm
Online payment — up to 9:00pm

'Stray dog problem can negatively affect tourism'

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Saipan's stray dog problem, which unofficial estimates say number anywhere between 10,000 and 20,000, can negatively affect the recovering tourism industry of the island, according to The Humane Society of the United States Hawaii State director Inga Gibson.

"It's not just about animal welfare; it's also about public health and public safety. When you have animals on the road—whether they are free-roaming animals or if you have animals deceased on the side of the road—that's not something anyone wants to see. From our research and other's research, tourists and visitors are less likely to return

to places where there are these free-roaming dog populations. This translates to millions of dollars of lost revenue potentially for Saipan," said Gibson, who recently visited Saipan to hold a seminar for the staff of the Saipan Mayor's Office's Dog Control Program.

She said that tourists simply correlate the treatment—or maltreatment of animals—to

the condition of the destination.

"Tourists don't want to see animals suffering. They don't want to see deceased animals on the side of the road. They don't want to see puppies or cats that are in distress. We know there's a direct negative economic impact when you have these large free-roaming [animal] populations," she said.

Gibson likens Saipan's cur-

rent stray dog problem to that of another U.S. insular territory, Puerto Rico, and how it relates to the tourism industry.

"Puerto Rico also has a large stray dog population problem and they've actually calculated the loss in the millions of dollars to their tourism industry because when people come and they see animals that are suffering, they say 'Not only am

I not coming back to spend my money here, but I'm gonna tell 10 people never to go there.' So the impacts are exponential when it comes to impacts to the tourism industry. ...The word gets out—they usually say 'don't go to this place because the animals are not being cared for.' People care about animals and they don't want to see animals suffering."

First Marine Corps relocation projects completed

SANTA RITA, Guam—A ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held on Jan. 22 for the completion of the first two U.S. Marine Corps relocation projects on Naval Base Guam.

The USMC-funded Apra Harbor Wharf Improvement and the Government of Japan-funded USMC Welcome Center projects total more than \$80 million in construction.

Roger Natsuhara, principal deputy to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations & Environment, will cut the ribbon at the event. Other prominent attendees include Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU); Deputy to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Infrastructure Strategy and Analysis Joe Ludovici; Rear Adm. Tilghman D. Payne, commander, Joint Region Marianas; Capt. Mike Ward, commanding officer

of Naval Base Guam; Bryan Wood, director of the USMC Headquarters Pacific Division, and distinguished guests from the Government of Japan.

Other USMC-funded projects already in progress in Guam include the construction of the North Ramp parking area and associated facilities at Andersen Air Force Base for military aircraft and improvements to Routes 1, 8, and 11. Other Government of Japan-funded projects include the construction of a new gate to Andersen Air Force Base and utilities and site work for the North Ramp. In the latest Defense Bill signed by the president, Congress has authorized the construction of an USMC aircraft hangar at Andersen Air Force Base, expected to begin next fiscal year, as well as the design and planning for future relocation projects.

The Wharf Improvements and Welcome Center directly support the USMC relocation to Guam and provide immediate utility to forces currently stationed in Guam or transiting the region.

"Projects such as these not only improve the facilities at the naval base but also provide many jobs for Guam citizens and infuse money into the local economy," said Ludovici, Joint Program Guam Program Office director.

Several other military construction projects are in progress in Guam to include the Naval Hospital, a state-of-the-art, world-class healthcare facility, with over \$150 million in construction, expected to be completed in the fall of this year and base housing improvements that will total more than \$20 million in construction. (PR)

MHS environmental ambassadors clean up Tank Beach



THOMAS A. MANGLONA II

From right, club adviser Andy Nissen and members Sheena Serrano, Janet Estrallado, and Mobtasim Alam clean the shores of Tank Beach early yesterday morning.

By THOMAS A. MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT



THOMAS A. MANGLONA II

Aurora David, right, poses for a photo with a fellow club member at Tank Beach.

"Leave it better than you found it."

That's the principle Marianas High School AP Biology teacher and Conservation Action Plan Committee adviser Andy Nissen said is what he and his students believe in.

Nissen and 10 students from the Conservation Action Plan Committee, who consider themselves "environmental ambassadors," woke up early yesterday morning to clean the shores of Tank Beach.

According to Nissen, the club initially started with just six students under the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance. This year the students took "going green" into their own hands by forming the new club.

The group picked up over a dozen trash bags worth of garbage. They plan to expand their projects across the island and get more people at their school involved.

"We hope that more students, especially at a big school like MHS, will be more involved," Nissen said.

Club member Aurora David shared that she and the other members are going to introduce a trash-bin program that separates recycled materials.

"It is important to do things like this to help our environ-

ment. We just want to help because the smallest things make the biggest difference," David said.

"We do things like this because we must show our tourists the best look of Saipan.

By picking trash at places like this, we do just that. Saipan is the most beautiful place in the world and we have to show people what we have to offer," another club member, Jonavelle Cuerdo, said.

WANTED

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The *Saipan Tribune* is looking for a FULL-TIME news reporter.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Above average writing skills and can work within deadlines;
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If you have what it takes to be part of a dynamic team, email your résumé and samples of your work to editor@saipantribune.com. You may also drop it off at the *Saipan Tribune* office on the second floor of the JP Center Building on Beach Road, Garapan. ON-ISLAND HIRES PREFERRED.

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer.
Qualified women, minorities, and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Education board restores PSS comptroller position

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After years of having no comptroller, the Public School System will soon have a new one after the Board of Education approved Friday the restoration of the position.

Along with this decision, the board also agreed to retain the positions of public information officer and assistant human resource director—both not permanently filled to date—in the system's organizational chart.

According to Board of Education chair Herman T. Guerrero, the comptroller position is a critical post that must be filled within the system's finance department. Its function will primarily deal with addressing potential PSS audit findings and compliance.

Guerrero disclosed that George

Palican, the agency's federal compliance monitor, will be appointed to the position. When this happens, Palican will relinquish his current post.

"The comptroller position is very critical within the finance department because it will focus on addressing any potential audit findings. George [Palican] is now doing this role and will have to relinquish his current post as soon as it is approved. For the compliance monitor officer, PSS will have the position announced," Guerrero said.

Past PSS audits have uncovered numerous findings, many of which are classified as reoccurring. Among these deficiencies are the issue on travels and untimely recording of data. The latest audit report, however, has shown significant progress,

with many findings already resolved or addressed. Guerrero said Palican was instrumental in this achievement.

During Friday's board deliberation, which saw the participation of Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan via teleconference, board member Marylou Ada initially questioned the need to "create" new positions, including that of the PIO and HR assistant director.

Sablan indicated, however, that both posts have been in the PSS functional chart since the beginning and must be maintained. She cited some individuals who formerly occupied the HR assistant director post such as Coreen Palacios.

According to Guerrero, retaining the positions does not automatically mean that PSS

has to fill those positions now.

"We agreed not to remove the PIO position because we need somebody to coordinate within the system. HR assistant director is also an important position for PSS. These two [posts] have always been there. But sometimes, it's a matter of priority when it comes to hiring. For PSS, hiring teachers of course comes first," Guerrero explained.

Greater visibility

Based on the proposed PSS organizational chart, five programs will be placed under the "Special Programs" box, all directly under the associate commissioner for instructional services. These items are Head Start, Childcare, Early Intervention, and Alternative Education program.

After a lengthy discus-

sion, board members recommended to Sablan to come up with a revised proposal that will give important programs greater visibility in the organizational chart.

Ada said that among these is the JROTC program, which was nowhere to be found on the proposed chart.

Board vice chair Lucy Blanco-Maratita also pointed out the need to give "Head Start" and "Early Intervention" programs greater importance by providing separate boxes within the chart.

Based on the proposed chart, the following are the items given special boxes: curriculum services; assessment and instructional services; program evaluation services; distance learning, library, multimedia technology; parental and community programs;

Special Education; and special programs (Head Start, Childcare, Early Intervention, Alternative Education).

The board agreed to ask for a revision of the proposal for their next meeting.

"I recommend that Head Start be taken out from special program items and be placed separately because it also directly report to the board. It has also a policy council that must be included," said Guerrero.

He also cautioned against being confused between the special education program and the early intervention program, which are entirely different programs.

This underscores the need to give early intervention equal importance on the chart. "They are two different programs but they work hand in hand," he added.

'Potential disapproval of Telesource contract change will have no impact on CUC finances'

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In the event the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission disapproves the proposed implementation of Telesource change order No. 5, this will not have any financial impact on the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., according to chief financial officer Charles Warren.

CUC earlier requested that a \$1.412 million for fiscal year 2014 be recognized by the commission to fund the obligations it would incur under

change order No. 5. It will be recalled that CPUC approved in November 2011 amending CUC's contract with Telesource, the independent power producer that handles power production on Tinian. This change order provides extensions of up to 15 years on the Telesource contract, with incremental increases each year that will be paid out from electric base charges. This decision was put on hold in January 2012.

It was learned that in the event CPUC decides to fund the Telesource change order,

the net revenue requirement of CUC for fiscal year 2014 would increase to \$4.212 million.

Under the latest rate petition before CPUC, the utilities corporation is seeking to raise \$2.8 million from its electric base rate. This amount does not factor in the Telesource change order.

CPUC's consultant, Georgetown Consulting, and the hearing examiner have already cautioned the commission against acting on the Telesource matter pending further review.

Although he admits that the

Telesource contract would not have any impact on CUC's finances, Warren underscored the importance of the infrastructure surcharge.

"During the pre-public hearing conferences held with CPUC staff, the deteriorating condition of the power distribution system was discussed. CUC requested to continue the \$0.021/kWh charge after the PMIC obligation is paid off to fund repairs/improvements to the power distribution system," said Warren.

He said that CPUC staff recommended, and CUC agreed,

that an independent study of the distribution system be conducted to determine the extent of repairs needed and the associated costs.

In the proposed increase in the electric base rate of power customers, factored in the equation is a surcharge to pay for the remaining balance owed an independent power producer whose contract was terminated over a year ago. The surcharge will specifically be used to pay Pacific Marine Industrial Corp., whose contract was bought out in 2012.

In June 2012, CUC entered

into an agreement with the company to terminate their power purchase agreement, as it was costing CUC \$3.972 million annually. Their original agreement was scheduled to end Aug. 31, 2016. This contract buyout was projected to save CUC over \$5 million.

Documents obtained show that the payments under the buyout agreement was \$341,000 every month from July 2012 to December 2014.

It was also agreed that the surcharge, once approved by CPUC, should be in effect for 12 months.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the 14th CNMI Youth Congress and representatives of the Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence have their picture taken at the Legislature yesterday after YC resolution 14-01 was passed.

Youth Congress plans CNMI-wide youth summit

By **THOMAS MANGLONA II**
CORRESPONDENT

Members of the 14th CNMI Youth Congress passed Resolution 14-01 recognizing February as Teen Dating & Domestic Violence Awareness Month during their second organizational session on Capital Hill on Saturday.

Sen. Marielle Kapileo, Youth Congress Speaker and author

of the resolution, said: "With the generation many of our youth has established a variety of relationships. Many adults are not aware, but with some of these relationships come problems. This resolution is passed so that we

» Resolution recognizes February as Teen Dating & Domestic Violence Awareness Month

are aware of the many issues affecting our youth today."

Maise B. Tenorio, member of the NMI Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, praised the members of the Youth Congress for taking the time to recognize Febru-

ary as Teen Dating & Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

"You are the leaders of the CNMI and we are so happy to be partners with you. We are so excited," Tenorio told the youth senators.

Both the coalition and the Youth Congress will host a variety of events next month such as a poetry slam and a proclamation signing at the Governor's

Office next Friday.

The session only lasted minutes but the youth senators met afterwards for an informal meeting to discuss the annual youth summit that the Youth Congress is allotted a budget for.

According to floor leader and summit co-chair Maria Dizon, the summit is tentatively set for March 21 and will be held at the Legislature building.

"At the summit, we cover topics ranging from preparing for college to the effects of

modern-day social networking," Dizon said.

Kyle David Manuel, who co-chairs the youth summit committee, expressed excitement and hope for the summit.

"Every day, the youth of the CNMI are faced with issues that they may not have the ability to solve themselves. ...It is my hope that, through this upcoming Youth Congress summit, we will be able to address the most important issues that face the youth of the CNMI."

Returning soldiers urged to use expired license law

GUAM—Sen. Rory J. Respicio is reminding all returning soldiers to take advantage of a law he authored that assists them with licenses or permits that might have expired while they were deployed, or on a temporary duty assignment.

In a letter sent last week to Maj. Gen. Benny M. Paulino, Adjutant General of the Joint Force Headquarters Guam, Respicio explained that the law is in place to assist soldiers who are returning home from deployment or temporary duty.

"I sponsored a law in the 29th

Guam Legislature that assists them as they transition from active deployment to returning home. While deployed, government licenses and permits may have expired," said Respicio. "Public Law 29-148 was signed into law on Jan. 30, 2009. It allows a 180-day grace period for Guard and Reserve members to pay renewal fees for licenses and permits (including driver's licenses, vehicle registrations, health certificates, hunting and fishing licenses, and so on) when they return home."

Respicio noted that the law

waives any penalties that would have otherwise been imposed for the expired licenses and permits. In addition P.L. 29-148 also extends this benefit to a dependent of each service member, in order that the focus remains on the family, and avoids complications resulting from expired licenses or permits.

"Our brave men and women, upon returning from their deployment or temporary assignment, should receive as much help as possible," Respicio said. "This law provides them with an automatic 180-day extension.

Our government allows the returning soldiers to focus on spending quality time with their families, instead of standing in long lines at various departments and agencies to renew such licenses and permits."

Paulino acknowledged Respicio for reminding soldiers of the law that will assist them and further stated, "Thank you for your unwavering support to my soldiers and airmen. I will disseminate this info to the soldiers from 1-294th Infantry Battalion who recently returned from deployment." (PR)

Guam, CNMI marks 'Stalking and Human Trafficking Month'



Guam photo of some of the Human Trafficking Task Force members, courtesy of Cynthia Cabot from the Guam Coalition Against Sexual Assault & Family Violence.

January 2014 has been proclaimed as National Slavery and Prevention and Awareness of Human Trafficking Month by President Barack Obama. On Jan. 10, 2014, Guam Gov. Eddie Baza Calvo and CNMI Gov. Eloy S. Inos proclaimed "Stalking and Human Trafficking" Month. Communities nationwide join together to raise awareness about the ills of human trafficking, slavery and stalking.

The Guam Human Trafficking Task Force organized several events to commemorate

Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Month in Guam, including a public waving in front of Skinner Plaza, Hagatna on Jan. 16; human trafficking awareness workshops for medical and health professionals at Guam Memorial Hospital and public health centers in Dededo, Mangilao, and Inarajan; and community outreach at Agana Shopping Center on Jan. 20.

The task force also spearheaded simultaneous candlelight vigils on Jan. 22, from 6pm to 7pm in Agat, Asan-

Maina, Dededo, Hagatna (Chamorro Village), Inarajan, Ordot/Chalan Pago, Piti, Talofofo, and Tamuning.

The CNMI Human Trafficking Intervention Coalition has planned a community outreach for Jan. 23, 2014, from 5pm to 9pm at the Thursday Night Market in Garapan, and a Human Trafficking Awareness Workshop on Jan. 29, 2014, from 8am to 9am, to be held at Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

The Guam Human Trafficking Task Force and the CNMI Human Trafficking Intervention

Coalition—composed of representatives of federal and local law enforcement agencies, victim service providers, social service providers, medical and health professionals, faith-based organizations, and other community partners—will continue to respond to the needs of human trafficking victims and their families and to hold offenders accountable.

For more information about the events, contact Mae Blas at (671) 477-4144 or via email at salome.blas@usdoj.gov. (USAO)



CNMI photo of Human Trafficking Intervention Coalition, courtesy of Angel Demapan from the CNMI Governor's Office.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

January 21, 2006

'PTI scholarships instead of paying easement fees'

The Senate wants Pacific Telecom Inc. to provide local students with full scholarships rather than pay easement fees for their use of public lands. The Upper House adopted on Thursday a resolution urging the Marianas Public Lands Authority to enter in a memorandum of agreement with Pacific Telecom Inc. providing that PTI award CNMI indigenous students with full educational scholarships in lieu of paying rental fees to MPLA. Introduced by Senate President Joseph Mendiola, S.R. 15-05 maintains that such an arrangement would "conceivably end the impasse in negotiations between MPLA and PTI and provide an amicable solution to the present dispute."

Full reprogramming measure now a law

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed into law yesterday a bill giving him unrestricted reprogramming authority until a budget law has been enacted for fiscal year 2006. House Bill 15-33, which became Public Law 15-1, is the first law to be enacted under the Fitial administration. Fitial said the new law was a product of a meeting he had with the respective leaders of the House of Representatives and the Senate on Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2006. The House and the Senate passed H.B. 15-33 in their first regular session on Wednesday and Thursday, respectively. According to Fitial, the quick enactment of the law signifies the unity of the Executive and Legislative branches of the government.

January 21, 2007

Car flips over, hits 4 vehicles

An alleged intoxicated motorist was injured when he lost control of his car, causing it to go airborne and hitting four other vehicles that were parked in front of Joeten Chalan Piao early yesterday morning. Police director Pete Leon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the driver suffered minor injuries and was arrested for driving while under the influence of alcohol and refusing to take a breathalyzer test. Leon Guerrero said he has no information yet as to the driver's identity.

Tinian mayor now in charge of cemetery

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has signed a local bill that places the responsibility of maintaining the San Jose cemetery with the Tinian Mayor's Office. Senate Local Bill 15-01, authored by Sen. Jude Hofschneider, is now Tinian Local Law 15-4. The new measure gives the Tinian municipal government administrative authority over the cemetery in San Jose village. Currently, the cemetery is being maintained by the local Catholic church. "The Second Senatorial District Delegation finds that the management and ground maintenance of the Tinian San Jose Village Cemetery has at times been overlooked. The [Tinian] delegation further finds that it is currently unclear as to under whose authority this responsibility falls," states the local law.

January 21, 2008

150 join motorcade vs federalization

Local citizens from both ends of the political spectrum got together on Sunday in protest of the proposed federalization of CNMI immigration. Some 150 government officials, businessmen, and community members participated in a two-hour motorcade around the island, honking their horns and greeted by residents they passed along the way. After the motorcade, the group gathered at the Garapan Fishing Base for a barbecue lunch. "I was expecting more people to come, but it's all right," said Gregorio Cruz, president of the Taotao Tano citizen group, which led the event. "The turnout today is better than in any previous meeting we have had. I just wanted people to get together, set aside the political differences, and show they are united against federalization."

Stanley to reintroduce political status bill

The most senior member of the House of Representatives is bent on legislation to revisit the Commonwealth's political relationship with the United States. Rep. Stanley T. Torres said he will reintroduce his bill that seeks to form a Second Marianas Political Status Commission. The bill passed the 15th House last month, but it died in the Senate. "People are not taking it seriously," Torres said. "But I will try to get it passed in the 16th Legislature."

SSHS JROTC earns No. 2 spot in JLAB competition

The Manta Ray Battalion participated in the 8th Brigade JLAB (JROTC Leadership Academic Bowl) and U.S. Army 8th Brigade Academic Challenge Competition. This competition tests the cadets on their knowledge about JROTC lessons and JLAB experience.

The 8th Brigade JLAB competition started off with the academic challenge on Nov. 8, 2013 and the leadership challenge on Nov. 12, 2013.

The cadets that participated in the U.S. Army 8th Brigade Academic Challenge did an outstanding performance competing against other JROTC schools from Alaska, Califor-

nia, Washington, Oregon, Nevada, Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam and the CNMI.

The competition started off with the LET 2 (Leadership Education Training) on Dec. 5, 2013, and the LET 1 on Dec. 6, 2013.

The cadets' hard work and training gave them the spot for second place in the overall competition of the U.S. Army 8th Brigade Academic Challenge for LET 1. Although they may have taken first place last year, the Manta Ray Battalion strives to continue to be dedicated and motivated to get better in each competition. **(PR)**

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Birthday shoutout to the greatest dad, John O. Delos Reyes! With lots of love from Sinforosa, Tawnie, Jihan and Aliyani.



From right to left, C/SSG Martin Kapileo, C/Sgt. Jasmine Basto, C/CPT Annika Matias, C/CPT Nikki Yutuc, C/1LT Danielle Mafnas, C/2LT Steffie Alipio, and C/1LT Rhea Banados.



MARKET, MARKET!

Shoppers buy vegetables from one of the stands at the Thursday Street Market at the Fishing Base in Garapan.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



TIMBERRRRRR!

An old flame tree falls along a side street behind the JP Center in Garapan yesterday, toppling a power pole with it.

TEDDY ORBETA



ACADEMIC CHALLENGE BOWL

The Saipan Southern High School JROTC Academic/Leadership Teams made it to the JROTC Leadership/Academic Bowl Level 2 Competition and takes 2nd place for the U.S. Army 8th Brigade Academic Challenge on Nov. 12, 2013. From right to left: C/Sgt. 1st Class Sergio Mendiola, C/2LT Jhean Lamberto, C/Cpt. Hanzel Batan, C/Cpt. Ella Dela Cruz, C/Cpt. Conrad Calub, C/Cpt. Nikki Yutuc, C/Sgt. Jasmine Basto, C/1LT Rhea Banados, and C/2LT Steffie Alipio.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

It's not 'our' Iraq anymore

The following editorial appeared in the Los Angeles Times on Friday, Jan. 17:

Gains by al-Qaida-allied groups in Iraq—including in Fallouja, the site of a bloody U.S. offensive in 2004—understandably anger Americans who lost loved ones in a “war of choice” that was supposed to secure democracy in that country. But the continued violence in Iraq doesn’t discredit the decision of the United States to withdraw troops, nor does it justify any new deployment.

Even now, the United States has an interest in Iraq’s future and seeks to influence events there. The Obama administration, with congressional support, has expedited the delivery of military equipment to the government of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki to be used against the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, the al-Qaida-affiliated group that seized large portions of Fallouja. Meanwhile, the administration appropriately has been urging Maliki, a Shiite Muslim who has alienated Iraq’s Sunni Muslims and dealt harshly with dissidents, to engage in political dialogue and respect human rights.

But the administration wisely has rejected calls for more direct involvement. The American people understandably have no appetite for military intervention in Iraq.

Former Secretary of State Colin Powell was right when he said, in connection with the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, that “if you break it, you own it.” The invasion did “break” Iraq in the sense of toppling an authoritarian regime without ensuring that it would be followed by a stable new order. Having unleashed an unexpected insurgency, the U.S. felt obliged to deal with it, at a cost of thousands of American lives. But the statute of limitations on that obligation has run out, and when U.S. forces left in 2011, Iraqis were happy to see them go.

The experience of this country in Iraq remains deeply disillusioning and continues to provide fodder for political attacks. Republicans such as Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., insist glibly that President Obama is to blame for the current disorder because he didn’t push Maliki harder to accept a small residual U.S. force after the withdrawal. Democrats insist that the blame belongs to President George W. Bush, whose naive attempt to further a “freedom agenda” in Iraq unleashed ethnic and religious rivalries that had been suppressed by Saddam Hussein. Both arguments ignore the fact that U.S. “ownership” of events has ended.

In 2007, when he ordered a “surge” of U.S. forces, Bush said that victory in Iraq would take the form of “a functioning democracy that polices its territory, upholds the rule of law, respects fundamental human liberties and answers to its people.” Those remain noble goals, but if they remain elusive, it is not because of a lack of U.S. effort.

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j'aime la vie

Leave it to the French, we said. But I followed their example. I eat French fries (not really theirs, but we attribute it to them anyway), adding inches to my waist, and French kiss at every chance I get. French toast is breakfast and I fancy French wines because I know how to pronounce Chardonnay Sauvignon, Champagne, and Bordeaux!

We always thought them the odd people in Canada when I lived in the Prairies, derisively calling them “frogs” because rice paddy jumpers from French Indochina were abundant and their legs entered exquisite French cuisine. Gallic names litter the Mississippi from the Great Lakes to the bayous of Louisiana, the Appalachia to the Rocky Mountains, thanks to Napoleon who needed cash to fund his wars and rid real estate of Nouvelle France to the New World of the Americans.

My firstborn graduated from the International School in Makati, Metro Manila, and her French teacher of Vietnamese descent told her that she would never speak French like a native speaker. So on her junior year in college, she packed up and headed for a year in Provence’s Avignon, taxing her mom’s financial health since I was too much of a mendicant bum to contribute anything substantive to support her Tour de France.

A year later she was speaking the language like a native, enough that her company in the U.S. later thought of sending her to Tunisia (*République tunisienne*) when they needed a rep to market their IT software offering. Tunisian male-dominated connection, however, did not wish to baby a female rep, but I am sure they would have relented had they known that my daughter hung out with Legionnaires while in France.

I flew into Paris from Chicago in ‘77 to wake up to futuristic escalators at Charles de Gaulle airport. On my way to Maharashtra in India, my ticket got me through Paris and Rome. Unfortunately it was August, when half of Paris leave for the coasts, so my efforts to locate acquaintances like the girl who proffered croissant hospitality that summer in America produced *rien, nada*. Overpaying a bistro tab on Sienne’s left bank at the Latin Quarter, and billeting at a Montmartre Arab-run dive, my budget for a week in Paris went poof overnight.

All the foregoing is a Pinoy *passacalle* to being confronted by news this week that French President Francois Hollande is cuddling up with actress Julie Gayet. Duh! Hollande is French! He has four kids with former 30-year live-in partner and fellow socialist politician Segolene Royal, who lost the 2007 presidential election to Nicolas Sarkozy, with Hollande blamed for mismanaging her campaign. They parted ways within a month thereafter. When Hollande ran against Sarkozy in 2011 and won, he was sharing fluids with French journalist Valerie Trierweiler who moved in with him after his election to the Elysee Palace, became media’s “premiere dame”

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES. A peripatetic pedagogue, he made his last institutional stop in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.



and accompanied him in official travels abroad.

Photographer Sebatién Valiela, who has a paparazzi habit of stalking dignitaries, recently took pictures of President Hollande back-riding on a motorbike to visit the French actress’ apartment 150 yards away. Valiela is the same photographer who snapped pictures of another Francois 20 years earlier. The late President Mitterand was caught on celluloid coming out of breakfast with his daughter Mazarine. Mitterand publicly acknowledged the fair issue of his long-ago discretion with his mistress; it was no big deal to the French.

Monsieur Hollande campaigned against the flashy and flamboyant Nicolas Sarkozy as “Monsieur Normal.” Sarkozy took Italian-French model, singer, and songwriter Carla Bruni as his third wife when he won the office, and the glamour of the couple in Elysee Palace was glitzy and ditz. Monsieur Normal, however, meant that he was just a normal French male! In a real sense he is.

What is really at issue is the mythical role of a “first lady” in a presidential palace, not an issue with societies where fidelity in marriage, or the appearance of one, like Jack-Jackie Kennedy’s Camelot, goes with the office of the President, but Hollande once commented that the President is the only one elected, and who he sleeps with is nobody else’s business.

This would not apply to Obama since the U.S. President’s gait is orchestrated by the Security Service, in this case one with the Victorian pedigree of the nation. Obama dances on his security’s score!

Huff Post followed the latest French scandal with, “...the only person thought to have been shocked by the news is the partner of the Frenchman. She is now in hospital suffering from naïvety.” It appears that the talented Greek-American Arianna Stassinopoulou Huffington, Huff media group’s CEO, allowed her British education to spell “naïvety” rather than the more appropriate French “naïveté.”

Hollande is vocal in his opposition of nuclear power in France and disapproves of oil “fracking” in his sovereign domain. Oil companies are not pleased with Monsieur Normal. A Lothario in As Lito might bat an Opus Dei’s eye, but a scandal in sexually loose France? I am Frenchified! What can I say? *J’aime la vie!*

EDITORIAL POLICY

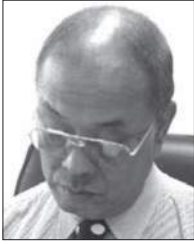
and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Tinilaikan Tiempu

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



Este i teknalayi (technology) hana` guaha konbiñiente siha na kosas deste telefon ipod yan otu siha attikulu. Gaige matan famaguonta gi kada unu gi este siha na kosas, diariu.

Deste huegu, leblu, yan konbetsasion gaige gi este siha na kosas. Ma`tut i otdinariu na konbetsasion familia.

Esta na`chaleg i tatan guma` gi lamasan sena`nai ha faisen lahiña kau manaitai antes de u chochu. Sinaulag tatte gi iphone, “huñgan”. `Nai ti ineppe, ha faisen ta`lu. Sinañgane ni patgon, “Gaige ineppeghu gi iyomu iphone, rikonose”. De dios!

Ti baba usun modetnu na teknalayi sa`trastes pa`gu na tiempu. Lau mauleg i mañaina una` guaha areglu gi halom guma` gi usun este siha na trastes teknalayi.

Seriosu na chetnot natibu

Dos chetnot natibu ni mampos seriusu piot dispues de idat 40 años: diabetes (type two) yan korason. Ti hutuñgu`kau gaige gi haga`natibu este na chetnot pat lamayot patte pot modun linala`. Lau mampos estotbu i manadan man-malañgu entre diabetes yan korason.

Dispues, mas ke siete sientus (700-mas) na tautau-ta mana`fan hanau para hospitat hiyuñg Marianas gi mapas na sakan. Seguruyu`na ti pot sinagu`sino popgug granumatditu chetnot niha. Guaha pot kanset pachot, guetgeru yan estomagu ni finañagan mama`.

Robert Gates and why Defense secretaries are grumpy

In his memoir, former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates reveals how unhappy he was to be leading the Pentagon in the Bush and Obama administrations. He was mad at Congress, furious with the White House and outraged by Pentagon bureaucrats. In fact, some days he was so angry he wasn't sure he could take it anymore.

“All too often during my 4 1/2 years as secretary of Defense, when I found myself sitting yet again at that witness table at yet another congressional hearing, I was tempted to stand up, slam the briefing book shut and quit on the spot,” Gates writes in one of the excerpts from his book that was made public before the book's release.

On another occasion, Gates was incensed when Obama aide Thomas E. Donilon questioned the competence of Air Force Gen. Douglas M. Fraser, who was leading the U.S. effort to provide relief to victims of the 2010 earthquake in Haiti. “My initial instinct was to storm out, telling the president on the way that he didn't need two secretaries of Defense,” he says. “It took every bit of my self-discipline to stay seated on the sofa.”

Grumpiness, and worse, is not unusual in the office of the secretary of Defense. The first man to serve in the position after it was created after World War II, James Forrestal, worked tirelessly trying to impose civilian control on the military and manage his relations with President Harry Truman. After being asked to resign by Truman and receiving a diagnosis of severe depression, Forrestal leapt to his death from the window of a military hospital in Bethesda, Md.

Just what is it that makes being secretary of Defense so challenging and, well, infuriating? It's a problem of two empires. One of them is an expansive overseas American military presence, which gives the United States an interest in developments in almost every country in the world—and a need to manage them. The second is the vast national security bureaucracy, in the Pentagon itself and elsewhere in government.

Henry Kissinger once observed that “no country can act wisely simultaneously in every part of the globe at every moment of time.” But the secretary of Defense, who isn't even a country (although he does have his own ZIP code), has to try. It's true that he has a huge civilian and military staff working for him, but as the man who is, in effect, deputy commander in chief, he has ultimate responsibility for everything from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan to the possibility of conflict breaking out after an accidental naval clash in the South China Sea or the Arabian Gulf. That is an immense amount of pressure.

And the job isn't necessarily always made easier by the permanent Pentagon bureaucracy, the uniformed military or the rest of the em-

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish

Megai na man-hoben umu`usa pugua`yan sigariyu. Kase lamegai para u fan mamadese gi karera mona`nai man-hinigua`probleman kanset. Hulie`esta tres na tautau-ta ni mana`suha kiadas niha pot kanset mama`. Pot fabot na`para este na bisiu ensegidas.

I asukat i mas dañosu gi man-daibetes piot ya un`umpañg usun man-ma`asen na neñkanu siha. Pininu`reñhion-mu ya fumila hau gi sentron daialasis tres biahe gi semana pot kuattru oras kada biahe. Dispues, ha tutuhon maya`fan atanmu`nai sige i chetnot umadet. Rebaha kinanu`cha`ot na neñkanu pot hinemlo`mu.

Pot malofanyu`guine na birada ya hu lie`i sumen makat na pinadesen parehu ha`para i malañgu yan pipulan na hu apapagat to-dus na in`adahe hinemlu`miyu. Sumen makat na pinadese!

Gaige gi haga`ta

Namatman i poduñgu naneñg un`tautau ya litiku lau tai bisiu chupa ni ti gigimen atkahot. Brabu ya ti hoñgiyun na nina`litiku`nai sinaulag “stroke”`sino mapta`gigat titanosña. Dispues`nai hu komprende na gaige gi haga`este na chetnot. Haf`bisiomu yan modun kinano`mu dumetetmimina hinemlu`korasonmu.

Ti hu tuñgu kau gaige lokue`daibites dos (type two) gi haga`natibu lau estotbu i matai riñhion ni tinatitiye ni daialasis (makulan makina haga`i malañgu). I tatatte na attension adumididi`sige ha luñu`fuñgusion i korason estake uttimoña pumara boluntariamente. Estague`otru pinadese ni debi u familia u pre-para siha gi karera mona.

Yanin dispues kañgrenau manu na patte gi adeñg i malañgu ya piligru na kondision`nai pinega, siempre uma-utut. Todu klasen didog na asuntu u pinalo`pu`i familia piot i mamumulan. Fan manayuyot ya u ñahlalañg este na asuntu inkassu in`fagchae`.

Otru asuntu siha

`Nai esta kuartu biahe hana`asagua haduña, man-hassu i patlinu ya ha ñañgon mona: “Kase este uttimo sa`ti para kada biahe na ma-ñoda`hau nuebu karetamu para unna`tachuyu`guine”. A`Saina!

Gigon ha palo`pu`i sake i manog bisinu, sinañgane ni dueñu “ap-

By ANDREW GAWTHORPE

Los Angeles Times

Andrew Gawthorpe is a teaching fellow at the Defence Academy of the United Kingdom. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.



ployees in the national security state. The huge stakes in military operations invite interference and oversight by the White House staff, whose boss—the president—often has other things on his mind. The National Security Council has grown over the years into a government within a government, whose staffers will intrude in the smallest operational matter if they think it serves the president's best interests.

This can be infuriating if a secretary of Defense feels that domestic politics are interfering with the best interests of the mission or the troops, as well as to career bureaucrats who resent the interference of those they view as uninitiated in the ways of military power.

The changing nature of war in the 21st century compounds these problems. Wars nowadays are unlikely to be about armies sweeping across terrain and clear-cut missions. They are much more likely to be subtle, contentious and ambiguous in their outcomes. As much as presidents would like to establish clear narratives of success within one election cycle, the outcomes of nation-building campaigns like those in Afghanistan and Iraq can't be fully assessed until years or even decades after they are completed.

Caught between pressure to provide a quick win by the men who appointed them and the more sober and realistic assessments of the uniformed military, secretaries of Defense are quickly lost in a moral and practical maze.

Gates faced these problems in a period of unusually intense partisan rancor in Washington and public disillusionment with the wars of the last decade. At the same time, he felt a deep responsibility and emotional connection to the servicemen and women who continued to be in harm's way.

Some people are wondering at the apparent ferocity of Gates' attack on today's Washington. But we ought instead to marvel at a man who managed to keep plugging away for so long despite these intense pressures. The continuation of good civilian-military relations depends on such sacrifices, and Robert Gates made them in spades—even if he sometimes got a little grumpy along the way.

prubecha sa` pinegsaimu`. Ai na minamahlau i prohimu.

Arrestau un` bulacheru sa` abarambau sinigoña. Mafaisen haf` rason na debi umadispensa. Ilegña, “`Nai hu yute`latan sitbesa, huna`chagugu`gi kanton chalan”. Kantun chalan?

Mafaisen un` estudiante para u tanchu`yan sañgan huyuñg i ABC gi hilu`pisara. `Nai ha tutuhon finaisen ni maestro mañgge i “F”. Ha tutuhon ta`lu pues ha tanchu`dinanche i “F”. Mafaisen kau seguru, ensegidas ilegña, “Ai agun”, pues ha tanchu`i “D”. De dios mihu!

Un` amiguahu, ti sessu humosme misa. `Nai kumomotgan, ha ippe`lamita i ostia ya ha botsa. Mafaisen haf`planuña, ilegña, “Para`an ti mattuyu`otru Dameño esta guaha binto`hu”.

Ai na dinisintunau kumanta un`lahihu. Lau fotmat kumanta piot gi halom linahyan. Hu ñañgon na mauleg u kakanta gi halom bañu`nai guiguiya ha`namaisa. Ti magof.

Mampos triste amiguahu`nai ti masede humalom gi lañget. Era, man-lagnos otden si San Pedro na taya`esta ginen Marianas para u masede humalom gi lañget. Esta pa`gu gaige gi papa`mansanita ume`esuette yinease`San Pedro. Lau inipos tinane`i amku`ni manadan saki ginen Marianas. A`Saina!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

What are we afraid of?

Political union with the U.S. was supposed to stop colonial subjugation of these islands. But Governor Inos, in his latest statements about the status commission, seems to be still deeply stuck in the mentality of a colonial subject. Instead of considering the CNMI as a sovereign power that has the right—and indeed the obligation—to negotiate for what is best for itself, Governor Inos sees us islanders as colonial subjects that should be grateful for whatever tiny scraps the U.S. throws us.

Inos thinks small, like a yapping dog grateful for a pat on the head and a biscuit. He's happy with some food stamps for his political supporters, or a nice park in Garapan. But if we think beyond Inos-smallthink, then we realize that the world is wide open. We don't have to be America's yapping pet dog. What's Governor Inos so scared of? Voting in favor of the new status commission isn't a vote against associating with the U.S. It's only a vote in favor of sitting down and thinking about things, and whether we, the native people of these islands, can do better than we've done for ourselves with the current relationship. Maybe we can. Why is Inos afraid of even asking the question?

Have we achieved a standard of living equal to that in the U.S. mainland? Nope. Can we vote for President? Nope. Do we even have a real Congressman? Nope. Has any U.S. president even visited us, or mentioned us in a State of the Union address? Nope again. So is it so ridiculous that we might want to sit down and re-evaluate things?

We have a choice. We can follow Governor Inos and be Uncle Sam's obedient poodle, fearing to even question the master. Or we can assert our basic human and political rights, to simply sit down and evaluate where things are going and whether we can do better. The U.S. isn't the only game in town. And even if we choose to stay with the U.S., perhaps it can be on better terms than our forefathers were bullied into agreeing to some 40 years ago. If you're tired of Inos-style smallthink, then this is the only reasonable option.

Henry Rabauliman

Capital Hill, Saipan

Make money out of seized goods

Over 200,000 in seized cigarette sticks destroyed. Why does a government so broke and in the red destroy something of value? Why not pass a law that permits special relabeling of confiscated cigarettes and then selling them to interested retailers? Do we take the money from traffic tickets and burn it? Is stuff confiscated by the police or FBI destroyed? (www.propertyroom.com) Or is it auctioned off? Other items as much as possible could be included in such a law (of course this could not be done with “knock-off” shirts, bags, etc). Eliminating waste could get the CNMI back in the black.






John Cole

Garapan, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				
Partly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. Southeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 85° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 77
Palau	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 76
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲ 89 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 80
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 80
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 80
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲ 85 ▼ 79

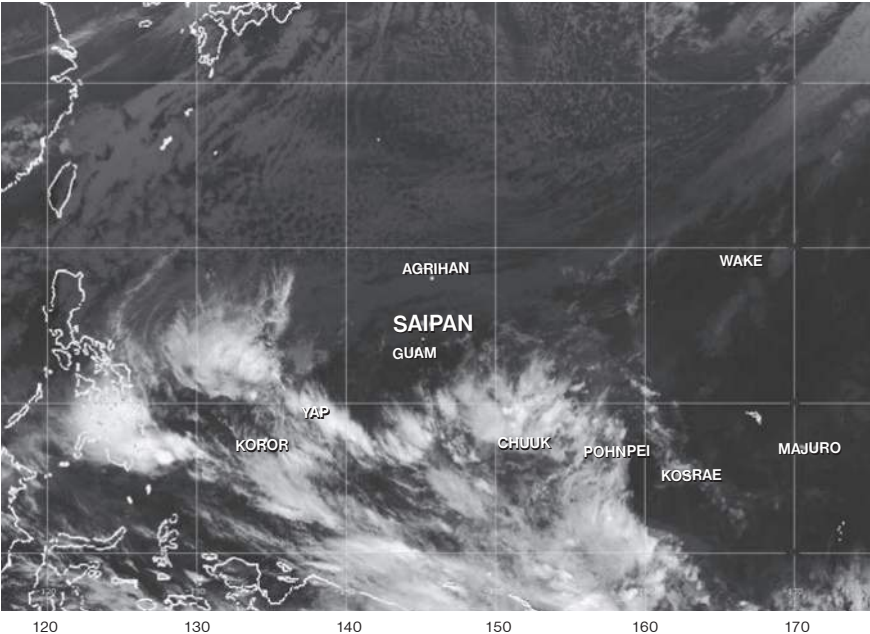
Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲ 73 ▼ 65
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 41 ▼ 21
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲ 64 ▼ 50
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 79 ▼ 68
London	Partly Cloudy	▲ 45 ▼ 40
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 77 ▼ 49
Manila	Cloudy	▲ 83 ▼ 72
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 71 ▼ 55
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲ 76 ▼ 56
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲ 42 ▼ 22
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲ 46 ▼ 36
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲ 43 ▼ 34
Pusan	Sunny	▲ 44 ▼ 28
Rome	Showers	▲ 55 ▼ 42
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 47 ▼ 34
San Francisco	Sunny	▲ 69 ▼ 43
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲ 32 ▼ 17
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲ 54 ▼ 35
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲ 51 ▼ 31

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
4:32 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
11:07 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
5:31 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
10:38 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, JANUARY 20, 2014

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from north of Wake Island near 25N168E to 17N153E then continues as a shear line that passes near Rota at 14N145E to beyond 130E at 10N. Extensive cloudiness and patchy rain are seen along and up to 500 miles northwest of this boundary. Isolated thunderstorms are found west of a line from 11N136E to 14N133E. A near-equatorial trough extends east-southeastward from near 7N130E through a weak circulation centered south of Chuuk near 3N153E to end near EQ159E. A surface trough extends northward from the circulation to end near 13N152E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring over Yap and Chuuk to southwest of Kosrae or south of a line from 10N135E to 9N142E to 13N154E to EQ162E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:47 AM	6:09 PM
Wednesday	6:47 AM	6:10 PM
Thursday	6:47 AM	6:10 PM
Friday	6:47 AM	6:11 PM
Saturday	6:47 AM	6:11 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:12 PM	9:46 AM
Wednesday	11:01 PM	10:25 AM
Thursday	11:52 PM	11:06 AM
Friday		11:50 AM
Saturday	12:46 AM	12:37 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 3, 2013

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) UA5070 4:15am 5:05am Daily UA5068 8:40am 9:30am Daily UA5039 1:35pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota UA5038 2:20pm 3:10pm 2, 3, 6 UA5078 6:05pm 6:55pm Daily UA5072 9:50pm 10:40pm Daily	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN UA5069 2:45am 3:35am Daily UA5071 7:15am 8:05am Daily UA5039 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5038 12:10pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6 via Rota UA5077 4:45pm 5:35pm Daily UA5079 8:30pm 9:20pm Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP) UA5039 1:35pm 2:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP) UA5038 12:10pm 12:45pm 2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM) UA5039 2:40pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN UA5038 1:15pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:00am 8:40am Daily DL297 4:30pm 7:20pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:55pm 1:30am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 1, 4, 5, 7	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 1:50am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 D2102 2:20am 5:50am 3 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ6063 3:30am 7:20am 4, 7 (will increase eff Jan 29) D2104 2:00pm 5:30pm 6 OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN D2101 8:30am 2:00pm 3 OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily D2103 7:30pm 1:00am+1 6 OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 OZ6053 9:10pm 2:30am+1 3, 6 (will increase eff Jan 29)
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) MU764 4:00am 8:00am 1, 5	BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN MU763 7:20pm 3:00am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5070/191 4:15am 9:05am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/473 6:00am 10:55pm Daily via NRT UA5068/PR111 8:40am 4:45pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM UA5039/183 1:35pm 9:30pm 5 via Guam UA5039/183 1:35pm 9:50pm 1, 4, 7 via Guam UA5038/183 2:20pm 9:30pm 2 via GUM UA5078/183 6:05pm 9:50pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily PR110/UA5072 7:35am 5:35pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM DL172/288 7:45am 1:30am+1 Daily via NRT UA190/5077 9:55am 5:35pm 2, 7 via Guam UA190/5079 10:00am 5:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA184/5071 10:55pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 11:59pm 8:05am+1 2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5068/179 8:40am 10:35pm 1, 5 via GUM UA5038/179 2:20pm 10:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ746/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ724/605 1:50pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA180/5071 11:10pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 1750	17:50	18:20	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 1020	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily				
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				



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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

China's economy grows 7.7 percent in 2013

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By **MARIE G. MCINTYRE**
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of *Secrets to Winning at Office Politics*. Send in questions and get free coaching tips at <http://www.yourofficecoach.com>, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.



Don't wait for apology; reach out to manager to heal rapport

QUESTION: Ever since the holidays, my manager has seemed angry with me. This is extremely disturbing, because "Sandra" and I have worked well together for four years. In fact, she's the best boss I've ever had.

Before Christmas, I asked Sandra if I could have three days off to spend time with visiting relatives. Company policy prohibits employees from taking vacation in December, because this is our busiest time, but Sandra agreed to make an exception. I was very grateful and expressed my appreciation.

When I returned, Sandra went on a tirade about tasks that I supposedly left unfinished. I was too stunned to defend myself, even though I had actually done the work. The next day, she pitched a fit about something completely trivial.

I kept waiting for Sandra to apologize, but she never did, so I made the mistake of complaining to another manager. Sandra found out, and we got into a heated argument. Now I don't know what to do. Is there any way to fix this?

ANSWER: Unfortunately, Sandra is acting like an angry child instead of a professional manager. But since she's the best boss you've ever had, don't let one regrettable incident ruin a four-year relationship.

Despite giving her approval, Sandra apparently resented your making a request which violated company policy and increased her holiday stress. Instead of acknowledging her own mistake, she's punishing you with unwarranted reprimands. Involving another manager just added fuel to the fire.

To encourage a return to normal, demonstrate your maturity by extending an olive branch. For example: "Sandra, we've always had a great relationship, but things have seemed tense ever since the holidays. I feel really bad about this, so I would like to see if we can put everything behind us and start over. Is that OK with you?"

Perhaps this gesture will inspire Sandra to finally offer an apology. But even if she doesn't, reconciliation will be better than continuing this silly spat.

Q: I work with a woman who is truly evil. Her lies and accusations have previously driven four co-workers to quit. Our former boss tried to keep her in line, but he recently passed away. Now I'm afraid she'll start manipulating the manager who replaced him. What can I do about this?

A: To counteract your malicious colleague's influence, you need to develop a strong relationship with your new boss. The more he knows and trusts you, the less likely he is to believe any negative comments. Managers typically give much more weight to their own perceptions than to office gossip.

Q: Someone recently wrote you about her computer being used by a co-worker to send an inappropriate email. In our company, employees are required to lock their computer with a password whenever they leave their desk. I believe you should have recommended this practice in your answer.

A: Thanks to you and all the other readers who offered similar advice. Everyone should use this simple security measure to protect not only themselves, but also their company's proprietary information.

BEIJING (AP)—China's economic growth decelerated in the final quarter of 2013 and appears set to slow further, adding to pressure on its leaders to shore up an expansion as they try to implement sweeping reforms.

The world's second-largest economy grew by 7.7 percent over a year earlier, down from previous quarter's 7.8 percent, data showed Monday. Growth for the full year was 7.7 percent, tying 2012 for the weakest annual performance since 1999.

Those figures appeared to mask a much sharper deterioration during the three months ending in December. Factory output, exports and investment all weakened. Growth in factory

output in the final three months of 2013 dropped to 1.8 percent from the previous period's 2.2 percent rate.

"The economy is slowing quite rapidly. The slowdown has accelerated during the quarter," said economist Dariusz Kowalczyk of Credit Agricole CIB.

That weakness might force Beijing to resort to state-led investment to support an expansion. That would boost debt levels that already have prompted unease about the health of China's financial system and could hamper efforts to shift to more self-sustaining growth based on domestic consumption.

China's growth still is far stronger than the United States,

Japan or Europe. But an unexpectedly abrupt decline from the blistering double-digit rates of the previous decade has raised the risk of politically dangerous job losses and increases the challenges faced by the ruling Communist Party as it tries to rebalance the economy away from reliance on trade and investment.

"A long-term accumulation of problems has yet to ease and the foundation for economic stabilization and recovery is still consolidating," said the commissioner of the government statistics bureau, Ma Jiantang, at a news conference.

A plunge in global demand for Chinese exports prompted Beijing to launch a mini-stimulus

in mid-2013 based on higher spending on railway construction and other public works. Growth accelerated from 7.5 percent in the three months ending in June to 7.8 percent the next quarter but settled back as the effect of Beijing's spending faded.

Since then, Chinese leaders have said there is little that additional stimulus can do to spur growth and improvements will have to come from longer-term reforms.

The International Monetary Fund has forecast this year's growth at 7.6 percent but private sector forecasts are as low as 7.2 percent. That would be China's weakest performance since 1990, when the economy grew by just 3.8 percent.



LUNAR NEW YEAR

A woman carries her luggage walks up a staircase heading to the Beijing railway station to catch a train in Beijing Sunday, Jan. 19, 2014. Millions of Chinese will be travel on the train and the bus network to return home for celebrate the Chinese Lunar New Year, which starts on Jan. 31 this year, marking the Year of the Horse on the Chinese zodiac.

FDA OKs mental disability blood test for infants

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Food and Drug Administration on Friday cleared a first-of-a-kind blood test that can help diagnose mental disabilities in babies by analyzing their genetic code.

The laboratory test from Affymetrix detects variations in patients' chromosomes that are linked to Down syndrome, DiGeorge syndrome and other developmental disorders. About 2 to 3 percent of U.S. children have some sort of intellectual disability, according to the National Institutes of Health.

The test, known as the CytoScan Dx Assay, is designed to help doctors diagnose children's disabilities earlier and get them appropriate care and support. It is not intended for prenatal screening or for predicting other genetically acquired diseases and conditions, such as cancer.

While there are already genetic tests used to detect conditions like Down's syndrome, doctors usually have to order them individually and they can take several days to develop. Pediatricians said Friday that Affymetrix's test should offer a faster, more comprehensive screening approach. Dr. Annemarie Stroustrup stressed that such tests are generally only used after children exhibit certain physical or behavioral signs that suggest a disorder.

"When there's something about the child that strikes us as unusual or pointing to a potential genetic disease, that's when we would use this testing," said Stroustrup, an assistant professor of pediatrics at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York. "This is not a screening test to be done on all newborns to predict how they are going to do in school when they are 5."

The technology behind Affymetrix's test has already been used for several years to screen fetuses for potentially debilitating diseases.

Postal Service, union wrangle over Staples outlets

WASHINGTON (AP)—The opening of Postal Service retail centers in dozens of Staples stores around the country is being met with threats of protests and boycotts by the agency's unions.

The new outlets are staffed by Staples employees, not postal workers, and labor officials say that move replaces good-paying union jobs with low-wage, non-union workers.

"It's a direct assault on our jobs and on public postal services," said Mark Dimondstein, president of the 200,000-member American Postal Workers Union.

The dispute comes as the financially struggling Postal Service continues to form partnerships with private companies, and looks to cut costs and boost revenues. The deal with Staples began as a pilot program in November at 84 stores in Califor-

nia, Georgia, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania as a way make it easier for customers to buy stamps, send packages or use Priority and certified mail.

Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe said the program has nothing to do with privatization and everything to do with customer service and driving up demand for the agency's products.

"The privatization discussion is a ruse," Donahoe said in an interview. "We have no interest in privatizing the Postal Service. We are looking to grow our business to provide customer convenience to postal products."

Staples spokeswoman Carrie McElwee referred questions about union concerns to the Postal Service. She said the company "continually tests new products and services to better meet the needs of our customers."

Union leaders fear that if the Staples program is successful, the Postal Service will want to expand it to more than 1,500 of the company's other stores. That could siphon work and customers away from nearby brick-and-mortar post offices, taking jobs from postal workers and even leading traditional post offices to close.

Union leaders have been visiting Staples stores to meet with managers, asking them to share the union's displeasure with upper management.

Dimondstein asked to meet with the Staples CEO Ronald Sargent, who has declined.

The union plans to hold "sustained" protests this month at Staples stores in the San Francisco and San Jose, Calif., area that would be expanded elsewhere.

Nation

Urban streets named for MLK still struggle

ST. LOUIS (AP)—A walk down the 6-mile city street named for the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. yields plenty of images that would surely unsettle the civil rights leader: shuttered storefronts, open-air drug markets and a glut of pawn shops, quickie check-cashing providers and liquor stores.

The urban decay along Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive in St. Louis can be found in other major American cities, from Houston and Milwaukee to the nation's capital.

"It's a national problem," said Melvin White, a 46-year-old postal worker in St. Louis and founder of a 3-year-old nonprofit group that is trying to restore King's legacy on asphalt. "Dr. King would be turning over in his grave."

Nearly three decades into the observance of Monday's federal holiday, the continuing decline

of the most visible symbols of King's work has White and others calling for a renewed commitment to the more than 900 streets nationwide named in the Atlanta native's honor. The effort centers in St. Louis, where the small nonprofit is working to reclaim MLK roadways as a source of pride and inspiration, not disappointment over a dream derailed.

White's goals are ambitious, his resources admittedly modest. A neighborhood park is planned across the street from the group's headquarters. An urban agriculture project to encourage residents to eat healthy and grow their own food has preliminary support from nearby Washington University, one of the country's wealthiest private colleges. Above all, Beloved Streets of America wants to build community from the ashes of what was

once a thriving retail corridor when White was a child.

The template can be found just a mile away. Delmar Boulevard, which saw a similar decline, is now a vibrant retail corridor packed with restaurants, nightclubs, a renovated movie theater and a boutique hotel. The renaissance earned Delmar recognition in 2007 as one of "10 Great Streets in America" by the American Planning Association.

Journalist Jonathan Tilove, who wrote a 2003 book based on visits to 650 King streets nationwide, called the King byways "black America's Main Street."

"Map them and you map a nation within a nation, a place where white America seldom goes and black America can be itself," he wrote. "It is a parallel universe with a different center of gravity and distinctive sensibilities. ... There is no other



In this Thursday, Jan. 16, 2014 photo, Melvin White, founder of the Beloved Streets of America project, walks past crumbling building during a tour of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive in St. Louis.

Florida is a retirement spot for horses, too

ALACHUA, Fla. (AP)—Whenever a horse arrives at Mill Creek Farm in Florida, Peter and Mary Gregory make the aging animal a promise to last the rest of its days.

"We say you'll never be worked or ridden again," said Peter Gregory, director of the farm. "And you'll be here forever. And they are here forever because when they die here, they're buried here."

About 130 horses have this 325-acre farm in north-central Florida as their retirement home, doted on by now-elderly caretakers. Nearly all of the horses have worked for years in law enforcement, military or other service jobs; a few have been seized by police.

Now these horses graze in green pastures, under moss-draped oaks. Their tranquil existence is only broken each day by Peter, 85, and his wife Mary, 81, riding out on golf carts from their home on the property. From field to field they go, feeding the horses hay, grain and carrot treats.

"It's difficult to find any place that will take an older retired horse. We wanted Special to actually truly be retired," said Sgt. Chris Laster of the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office, who brought a 23-year-old horse to the farm for retirement in 2013. "Peter knows every horse's name there; he knows their stories."

Originally from England, the Gregorys spent years traveling

the world when Peter was a hotelier. In 1984, they bought the farm about 20 miles north of Gainesville and created a nonprofit organization called the Retirement Home For Horses. It's since drawn tourists, documentary filmmakers and other visitors curious about where veteran horses go.

Some of the horses are blind. Some are ill. And all would have ended up at an out-of-country slaughterhouse had the Gregorys not taken them in. The farm doesn't accept horses from private owners. There are other horse retirement farms in the U.S.—in Kentucky, Tennessee and Connecticut—and there are only a few, much smaller farms for aging horses in Florida.



Mary and Peter Gregory feed a carrot to one of their retired, abused or neglected horses Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2014 at their Mill Creek Farm which they started in 1984 in Alachua, Fla.

street like it."

But while streets named for King undoubtedly resonate widely in the black community, a University of Tennessee geography professor whose research explores the cultural and political significance of such streets said the compromised condition of streets named for King in St. Louis and other cities deserves broader attention.

"In some ways we racially profile these streets," said Derek Alderman, author of a 2007 study that found a smaller dis-

parity among MLK-named streets and other "main streets" than is popularly portrayed. "We need to move beyond those images and see what concrete lives and realities are living on those streets."

More than 50 years after King led his march on Washington, communities large and small still debate whether to rename local streets in his honor. In Harrisonburg, Va., city leaders recently agreed to rename a street for King over protests by some residents. A similar debate

continues in High Point, N.C., where a King street proposal first suggested two decades ago remains up in the air.

Other cities have had more success in balancing the desire to commemorate King without superseding local tradition. Alderman singled out Chapel Hill, N.C., which in 2005 renamed a major thoroughfare that abuts the University of North Carolina campus. Street signs that identify Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard also include the name "Historic Airport Road."



ACROSS THE NATION

Police: Mom charged in kids' death feared devil

GERMANTOWN, Md. (AP)—A Maryland woman charged with killing two of her children has told investigators that she thought an exorcism was necessary to remove the presence of the devil and evil spirits, a police captain said Sunday. Zakieya Latrice Avery, 28, of Germantown, is charged with first-degree murder in the stabbing deaths of the children, ages 1 and 2. Montgomery County police responded to Avery's home Friday morning following a neighbor's 911 call. Police said they found the two children dead and two other siblings, ages 5 and 8, injured with stabbing wounds. "She thought the devil was in the kids, and that's sort of the thing she centered it around as to why she had to conduct an exorcism," said Capt. Marcus Jones, director of the police department's major crimes division. "She just thought that there were evil spirits within the kids."

Police: Man shoots, wounds wife at Nevada hospital

RENO, Nev. (AP)—An 88-year-old man accused of shooting and critically wounding his wife Sunday at a Nevada hospital was placed on suicide watch at a local jail, authorities said. Carson City Sheriff Ken Furlong said William Dresser was arrested after firing one shot with small-caliber semi-automatic handgun that struck his wife in the chest at Carson Tahoe Regional Medical Center in Carson City. No other injuries were reported. The woman was a patient in a third-floor room when she was shot around 11:30 a.m. The woman's name and age were not immediately released. Her injuries are considered life-threatening, and she was transferred to Renown Regional Medical Center in Reno, Furlong said. Dresser was

booked into the Carson City Jail on suspicion of attempted murder and was on suicide watch, the sheriff said. His bail was set at \$225,000, he said.

Family, friends stunned by Utah murder-suicide

SPANISH FORK, Utah (AP)—Family and friends say they are stunned a Utah police officer shot and killed his wife, mother-in-law and two young children before turning the gun on himself days ago. Those close to Joshua and Kelly Boren said they knew the couple had been having marital problems but never thought he was capable of such a violent act. Spanish Fork police say the 34-year-old officer of the Lindon Police Department shot his wife, 32; his mother-in-law, Marie King, 55; and his two children, Joshua "Jaden" Boren, 7, and Haley Boren, 5, before killing himself. They were found dead in their home late Thursday night, and police are still investigating a motive.

Dingy LaGuardia Airport undergoing \$3.6B makeover

NEW YORK (AP)—Dark, dingy, cramped and sad. These are some of the ways travelers describe LaGuardia Airport, a bustling hub often ranked in customer satisfaction surveys as the worst in America. That's about to change. Gov. Andrew Cuomo recently announced the state is taking control of an ambitious \$3.6 billion construction project that envisions an entirely new central terminal at LaGuardia, with vast open spaces, restaurants, shopping plazas, new parking garages, free Wi-Fi and other amenities now common in other airports. Cuomo also wants to develop a plan to upgrade cargo operations at nearby John F. Kennedy International Airport.

Asia

Grenade blasts hit Thai protest site, wounding 28

BANGKOK (AP)—Twin explosions shook an anti-government demonstration site in Thailand's capital, wounding at least 28 people in the latest violence to hit Bangkok as the nation's increasingly bloody political crisis drags on.

Police said the blasts Sunday near Victory Monument, in the north of the city, were caused by fragmentation grenades—the same kind that killed one man and wounded dozens Friday in a similar explosion targeting protest marchers.

The demonstrators, who control several small patches of Bangkok, are vying to overthrow Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra's government and derail Feb. 2 elections she called to quell the crisis. The protest movement has refused to negotiate and the rising casualty toll has only deepened the deadlock.

Witnesses said the explosions occurred about two minutes apart. The first blast went off about 100-200 meters (yards) from a stage set up by protesters, leaving a small crater beside a shop. The second went off near a row of vendors selling T-shirts in the street, leaving bloody clothes and a ripped white-and-blue plastic tarp scattered across the ground.

Police released closed circuit camera images of the suspect that showed a man wearing a black baseball cap bag hurling one of the grenades toward a tent



An injured anti-government protester is wheeled on a stretcher after arriving at Rama hospital in Bangkok, Thailand, Sunday, Jan. 19, 2014.

behind the stage. The grenade hit the roof of a small coffee shop and exploded. The suspect ran, threw a second grenade and was chased down an alley before fleeing by motorcycle.

Although the vast majority of Bangkok remains calm, political violence nearly every day over the last week has kept the city of 12 million on edge and

raised fears hostilities are only just beginning.

On Friday, another grenade hurled at marching demonstrators in the city center killed one man and injured dozens. And late Saturday, a gunman opened fire on protesters in the capital's Lad Prao district, seriously wounding a 54-year-old volunteer guard who was shot in the back.

There are conflicting theories about who is behind the unrest. Demonstrators blame the government and its supporters, who in turn accuse protesters of staging the attacks to pressure the military or judiciary to intervene—scenarios that would benefit the protest movement, which lacks the numbers to bring down the government on its own.

Sunai Phasuk, a senior researcher for Human Rights Watch, said “both sides of Thailand's political divide use violence and spin to serve their political goals.” He added such attacks are likely to continue.

Thailand's army has staged about a dozen successful coups since the end of absolute monarchy in 1932.

The last coup, in 2006, toppled then-Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra—Yingluck's brother—and touched off a societal schism that in broad terms pits a poor rural north who back the Shinawatras against a Bangkok-based elite backed by the army and staunch royalists who see Yingluck's family as a corrupt threat to traditional structures of power.

Yingluck's opponents—a minority that can no longer win at the polls—argue the Shinawatras are using their electoral majority to impose their will and subvert democracy.

The crisis boiled over again late last year after the ruling party attempted to push through an amnesty bill that would have allowed Thaksin to return from self-imposed exile. Thaksin has lived abroad since 2008 to avoid a prison sentence for a corruption conviction.

Sunday's blasts wounded 28 civilians, five of them critically, according to the Erawan Medical Center, which tracks casualties.

Police Col. Kamthorn Auicharoen, an explosive ordnance disposal officer, said intact grenade levers found at the scene indicated the explosives were Russian-built, anti-personnel RGD-5s.

A senior member of the protest movement, Sathit Wongnongtoey, condemned the bloodshed but said “condemnation is not enough ... it's the government who did it.”

ASIA BRIEFS

Afghan president again demands US airstrikes end

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Afghanistan's president demanded Sunday that the United States no longer carry out military operations or airstrikes and must jump-start peace talks with the Taliban before his country signs a security deal to keep U.S. troops in Afghanistan after 2014. President Hamid Karzai's deepening anti-American rhetoric comes as the Taliban intensifies its assaults ahead of the planned withdrawal and after Friday's militant raid on a popular Kabul restaurant, the deadliest single attack against foreign civilians in the course of the nearly 13-year U.S.-led war. Although Karzai has made similar demands in the past, he has in recent weeks ratcheted up his condemnations of alleged U.S. failures as Afghans look fearfully ahead to an uncertain future.

More than 90 wildfires blaze in Australian state

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—More than 90 wildfires were burning over Australia's New South Wales state on Sunday, but the danger has ebbed in neighboring Victoria and

South Australia states. Many of the 93 fires burning across New South Wales, Australia's most populous state, were sparked by overnight lightning strikes, state Country Fire Service spokesman Matt Sun said. At least three houses had been destroyed near the village of Minimbah, west of Sydney, he said. He said 900 firefighters continued to battle blazes late Sunday. Heat wave conditions across southeast Australia last week intensified wildfires that destroyed at least 25 houses in Victoria and South Australia over several days.

Life sentence for China dumpling poisoner

BEIJING (AP)—A Chinese court has sentenced a former food plant worker to life in prison for poisoning frozen dumplings that sickened 10 people in Japan in 2008. The incident strained Beijing-Tokyo relations just months before China hosted the 2008 Olympic Games. Millions of bags of dumplings were recalled and Chinese food products taken off shelves in Japan out of safety worries. The official Xinhua News Agency said 39-year-old Lu Yueting was sentenced on Monday by a court in the northeastern city of Shijiazhuang. Lu

had been dissatisfied with his wages and, in late 2007, injected insecticide into several boxes of frozen dumplings to get attention from his managers. The products were later sold in Japan and in the Chinese city of Chengdu, sickening at least four people.

Quake hits New Zealand; no major damage reported

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—A strong earthquake rattled New Zealand's lower North Island including the capital Wellington on Monday, although there were no immediate reports of major damage or injuries. The United States Geological Survey reported the magnitude 6.3 quake struck at 3:52 p.m. local time, about 38 kilometers (24 miles) northeast of the town of Masterton. Many Wellington residents were at home because it was a public holiday in the region. A giant eagle sculpture in Wellington's airport, placed there to promote director Peter Jackson's movie trilogy “The Hobbit,” fell from its overhead perch to the floor. An earthquake in the city of Christchurch in 2011 destroyed much of the downtown and killed 185 people.

Blast near Pakistani army headquarters kills 9

ISLAMABAD (AP)—A suicide bomber blew himself up not far from Pakistan's military headquarters Monday, killing nine people a day after a Taliban bombing inside an army compound in the northwest of the country killed at least 20 troops, officials and militants said.

The Sunday blast was one of the deadliest attacks to target the country's forces as they battle insurgents in its volatile frontier.

It was followed Monday morning by the bombing in the city of Rawalpindi, next to the capital of Islamabad. Police official Sardar Zulfiqar said it was a suicide bombing and that some security personnel were

believed to be among the dead.

The blast in the northwest targeted a vehicle in a convoy about to leave a military base in the town of Bannu and drive west to the North Waziristan tribal area, police official Inyat Ali Khan said. Pakistan's military said the blast wounded 30 troops.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack and called it a suicide bombing. Military officials said the blast came from an explosive planted in the vehicle, hired by the paramilitary Frontier Corps. While the army has its own transport vehicles, the paramilitary forces often hire vehicles when they need to move

troops in large numbers.

A spokesman for the Pakistani Taliban, Shahidullah Shahidi, told The Associated Press by telephone that the attack had been carried out to avenge the death of Waliur Rehman, the group's former second in command. He was killed last year in a U.S. drone strike.

“We will avenge the killing of every one of our fellows through such attacks,” the spokesman warned.

North Waziristan is considered a safe haven for al-Qaida-linked militants. Pakistani troop convoys often are hit by roadside bombs, but blasts inside military compounds are rare.

Philippine police in uphill battle vs child porn

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Cracking down on online child pornography is a growing challenge for Philippine police because those involved increasingly use unregistered pre-paid mobile phones lines and Internet devices that are hard to trace, a senior officer said Friday.

The comment came a day after British authorities announced that an international investigation had broken up a ring that streamed live webcam

footage of child sexual abuse from the Philippines for paying viewers around the world.

Gilbert Sosa, director of the Philippine national police's Anti-Cybercrime Group, said Friday that telecommunications companies were also refusing to turn over telephone and Internet log files of suspects following the suspension of a cybercrime law over privacy concerns.

He said the obstacles were preventing police from gather-

ing evidence from tens of thousands of sites transmitting child sexual abuse.

Unregistered SIM cards can be purchased even in neighborhood stores throughout the country with no identification required.

“We will be asking Congress for registration of SIM cards and wireless devices, pre-paid broadband ... and the lifting of the (temporary restraining order) on the anti-cybercrime law,” Sosa told reporters.

World

Ukraine protests turn into fiery street battles

KIEV, Ukraine (AP)—Anti-government protests in Ukraine's capital escalated into fiery street battles with police Sunday as thousands of demonstrators hurled rocks and firebombs to set police vehicles ablaze. Dozens of officers and protesters were injured.

Police responded with stun grenades, tear gas and water cannons, but were outnumbered by the protesters. Many of the riot police held their shields over their heads to protect themselves from the projectiles thrown by demonstrators on the other side of a cordon of buses.

The violence was a sharp escalation of Ukraine's two-month political crisis, which has brought round-the-clock protest gatherings, but had been largely peaceful.

Opposition leader Vitali Klitschko tried to persuade demonstrators to stop their unrest, but failed and was sprayed by a fire extinguisher in the process. Klitschko later traveled to President Viktor Yanukovich's suburban residence and said the president has agreed to negotiate.

"There are only two ways for events to develop. The first one is not to negotiate," Klitschko was quoted as saying by the Interfax news agency. "A scenario of force can be unpredictable and I don't rule out the possibility of a civil war. ... And here we are using all possibilities in order to prevent bloodshed."

Yanukovich said later on



A protester throws a stone toward a burning police bus in front of him, during clashes with police, in central Kiev, Ukraine, Sunday, Jan. 19, 2014.

his Web site that he has tasked a working group, headed by national security council head Andriy Klyuev, to meet with opposition representatives to work out a solution to the cri-

sis. However, it was unclear if either side was prepared for real compromise; throughout the crisis, the opposition has insisted on the government's resignation and calling early

presidential elections.

The White House blamed the increased tensions on Ukraine's government for failing to acknowledge its people's legitimate grievances

and threatened sanctions if the use of violence continues.

National Security Council spokeswoman Caitlin Hayden said Ukraine's government "has moved to weaken the

foundations of Ukraine's democracy by criminalizing peaceful protest and stripping civil society and political opponents of key democratic protections under the law."

UN: Iran invited to attend Syrian peace conference

NEW YORK (AP)—Iran has been invited to attend a meeting of foreign ministers in the Swiss city of Montreux on Wednesday ahead of internationally brokered peace talks between Syria's warring factions, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon said Sunday.

Ban said he had issued the invitation to Iran after "speaking at length in recent days" with Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif, who had "pledged that Iran would play a positive and constructive role in Montreux."

Ban spoke to reporters at an impromptu briefing Sunday late Sunday afternoon. He said Iran is among 10 additional countries invited to attend the Montreux meeting that precedes the peace talks scheduled to begin Friday between Syrian President Bashar Assad's delegation and Syrian opposition groups at the U.N. European headquarters in Geneva. Thirty other countries had already been invited to attend the Montreux meeting.

Invitations to the one-day meeting of foreign ministers at a Montreux hotel had been subject to approval by the initiating

Reining in Iran's nukes

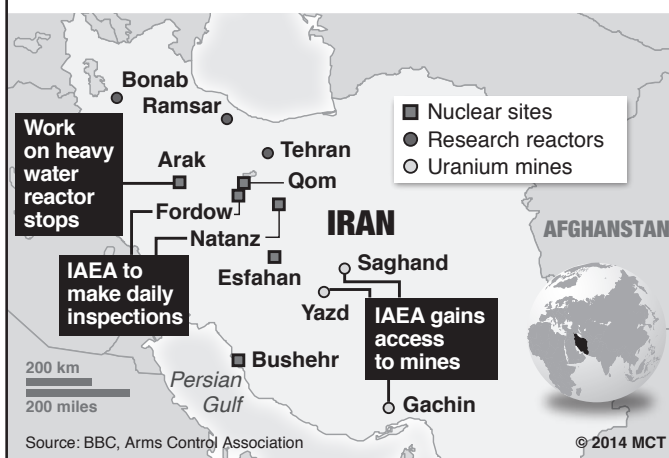
The first phase of the deal to halt Iran's nuclear capabilities begins January 20 and goes for six months. What Iran has agreed to do:

Constraints on its nuclear program

Halt enrichment of uranium to 20 percent purity
Neutralize existing stockpile of 20 percent uranium; disconnect equipment that can reverse neutralization process
Cap stockpile of 3.5 percent low-enriched uranium, now at 7,153 kg
Freeze enrichment capacity by halting installation, operation of more centrifuges at Natanz, Fordow plants
Freeze further development of nuclear-related activities at unfinished Arak heavy water reactor that could produce plutonium for weapons

More transparency

- International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) daily inspections at Natanz and Fordow
- IAEA access to centrifuge assembly, production facilities
- Earlier notification on new nuclear facilities
- Updated design data on Arak reactor and more inspections;
- IAEA access to uranium mines, mills



states, Russia and the United States, but the two countries had been at an impasse over whether Iran, Assad's strongest ally, should attend.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry had said he would welcome Iran's participation—but only if Tehran endorsed earlier diplomatic agreements that called for a transitional government in Syria that would be created by mutual consent among the Syrian factions.

Ban said that Zarif had assured him that Iran "understands that the basis of the talks" is the full implementation of the road map adopted by the U.S., Russia and other major powers in Geneva in June 2012. That plan called for the creation of a transitional Syrian government with full executive powers.

"Foreign Minister Zarif and I agree that the goal of the negotiations is to establish, by mutual consent, a transitional governing body with full executive powers," Ban said. "It was on that basis that Foreign Minister Zarif pledged that Iran would play a positive and constructive role in Montreux."

Russian Islamic video threatens Sochi Olympics

MOSCOW (AP)—An Islamic militant group in Russia's North Caucasus claimed responsibility Sunday for twin suicide bombings in the southern city of Volgograd last month and posted a video threatening to strike the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi.

There had been no previous claim of responsibility for the bombings, which killed 34 people and heightened security fears before next month's Winter Games.

In the video, two Russian-speaking men warned President Vladimir Putin that "If you hold these Olympics, we will give you a present for the innocent Muslim blood being spilled all around the world: In Afghanistan, in Somalia, in Syria."

They added that "for the tourists who come, there will be a present, too."

In a statement posted with the video on its website, the militant group Vilayat Dagestan claimed responsibility for the Volgograd bombings.

The video claims that the

two men, identified as Suleiman and Abdurakhman, were the suicide bombers and purports to show the explosives being prepared and strapped to their bodies.

There was no immediate reaction to the video from the Russian security services.

During much of the 49-minute video, the two men speak to the camera while holding Kalashnikov automatic rifles. Behind them hang black banners with Arabic religious phrases similar to those used by al-Qaida.

Vilayat Dagestan is one of the groups that make up the so-called Caucasus Emirate, which seeks to establish an independent Islamic state in the North Caucasus, a region just to the east of Sochi on Russia's southern border.

Dagestan, one of several predominantly Muslim republics in the North Caucasus, has become the center of the Islamic insurgency that has spread throughout the region following separatist wars in neighboring Chechnya.

Focus

China's panda diplomacy

Eighteen zoos or facilities around the world are part of China's Giant panda loan program. The process of choosing which zoos participate is about as complex as the challenge of preserving and caring for the pandas. The National Zoo in Washington, D.C., got its first pandas in 1972, part of the warming of relations between Washington and Beijing following President Richard Nixon's historic visit to China. But all of the pandas currently in U.S. zoos are on loan and are the property of the Chinese. Any pandas born in the U.S. must go back to China, including the National Zoo's baby panda Bao Bao and Yun Zi, a male who arrived in China this month after leaving his birthplace at the San Diego Zoo.

The term "panda diplomacy" was coined during the Cold War to describe China's motive in sending pandas to other nations, according to a September Oxford University study. China, whose politics, economy and national identity are interwoven, appears to be integrating its pandas into its economic goals.

Phases of panda diplomacy

Oxford's study groups China's panda program into three phases

Phase 1: 1960s and 1970s

During the Mao era, China gave pandas as gifts to "build strategic friendships"; the Soviet Union and North Korea each received a panda in 1965; China gave 24 pandas to nine countries from 1957 to 1983, including the first two to the U.S. in 1972

Phase 2: Early 1980s

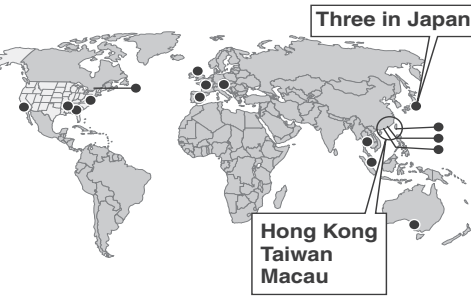
Beginning with Deng Xiaoping coming to power in 1978, the gifts became loans; nations gave as much as \$1 million annually for the right to keep pandas in zoos

Phase 3: Current

Panda loans now appear to be linked with China's trade policies: Bears go to countries that supply China with key resources and technology; the Oxford study said that shift represents China's desire to build "guanxi," or loyal, trusting relationships with recipients; a Scotland zoo received a panda while Scotland and China negotiated over \$4 billion in salmon, vehicle and energy contracts; Canada and France received pandas while negotiating huge energy contracts

Zoos with panda loans

The U.S. has more than a dozen giant pandas living in four zoos: Smithsonian's National Zoological Park, Zoo Atlanta, Memphis Zoo and the San Diego Zoo; pandas have been lent to 13 other zoos around the world

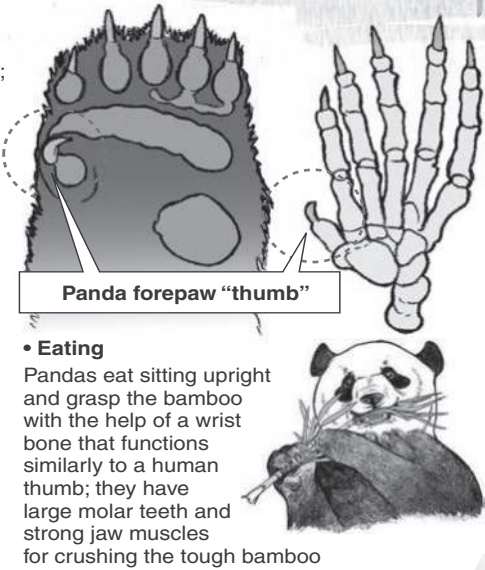


Giant panda



Habitat, lifestyle and basics

- **Body type and color** Pandas have the body of a typical bear, similar in size to the American black bear; their black and white coat is thick and woolly to keep them warm in mountain forests and possibly to provide camouflage
- **Size** Males weigh up to 250 lbs. (113 kg) and females 220 lbs. (100 kg)
- **Life span** 20-to-30 years generally, though life span in the wild is unknown
- **Lifestyle** Adult pandas are solitary but communicate through scent marks and calls; pandas spend much of the day resting, feeding and seeking food
- **Diet** Almost entirely bamboo with occasional small rodents and other animals; in zoos, pandas are fed other vegetables and fruits; to absorb enough nutrients, they consume 20 to 40 lbs. (9 to 18 kg) of bamboo each day because their digestive system is that of a carnivore, not an herbivore



Natural habitat in China

Originally found throughout the lowlands of the Yangtze River basin in western China, giant pandas were pushed high into the mountains as humans encroached on their habitat



Comparing bears and their populations

The five major subgroups of bears range from 3 ft. (0.9 m) tall, standing on all four paws, to 5 ft. (1.5 m) tall

American black bear

Ursus americanus
850,000 to 950,000 estimated in North America
Threatened

Average height
3 ft. (0.9 m)

Brown bear

Ursus arctos
200,000 estimated in the world (including grizzly bears*)
Endangered

4 ft. (1.2 m)

Asian black bear

Ursus thibetanus
Unknown, possibly 50,000
Endangered

2 to 3 ft.
(0.6 to 0.9 m)

Polar bear *Ursus maritimus*

20,000 to 25,000; Threatened

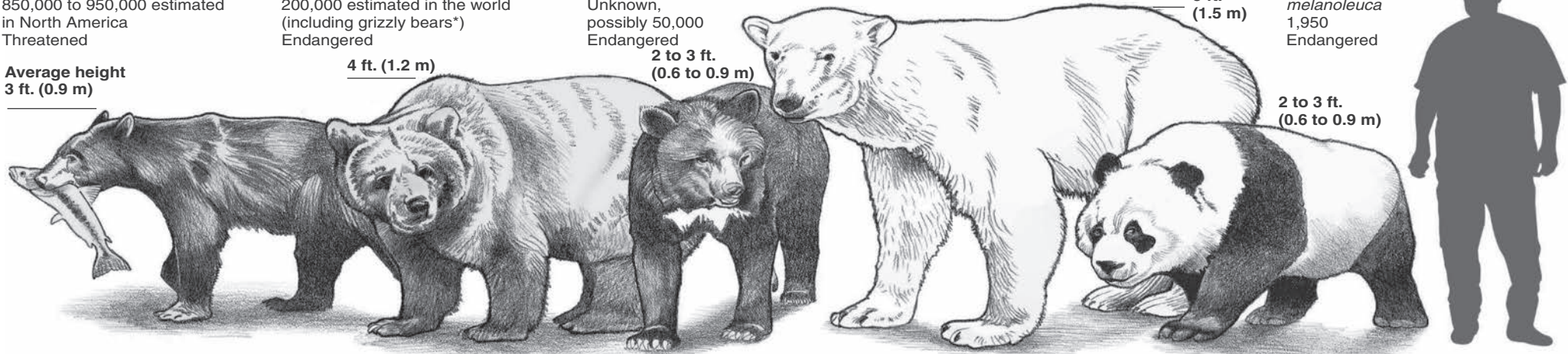
5 ft.
(1.5 m)

Giant panda

Ailuropoda melanoleuca
1,950
Endangered

2 to 3 ft.
(0.6 to 0.9 m)

6 ft.
(1.8 m)



*Grizzly bears are grouped into the brown bear species

Source: World Wildlife Fund, Smithsonian National Zoo, Association of Zoos and Aquariums, "Diplomats and refugees: Panda diplomacy" from Environmental Practice, U.S. Department of State, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Nixon Presidential Library, International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, Anthro Limited, Great Bear Foundation, North American Bear Center, Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoo
Graphic: Jonathon Berlina, Rick Tuma, Chicago Tribune

Overdrive

10 must-see vehicles at the Detroit Auto Show

By MARK PHELAN
DETROIT FREE PRESS

A few really important or spectacularly beautiful cars and trucks arrive every year, and the North American International Auto Show in Detroit has more than its share this week.

Here are 10 must-see vehicles for anyone who goes to the show.



AP

This undated photo provided by Ford shows the company's new 2015 F-150 pickup truck.

■ **2015 Ford F-150:** The biggest change ever for America's best-selling vehicle, the new F-150's all-aluminum body reduces weight by about 700 pounds versus last year's truck. That could mean major fuel savings for owners.

What will it cost? Will pickup customers accept the new material and features like LED lights, a 2.7-liter Ecoboost V-6 and radar-based automatic brakes? Those questions will decide if the F-150 is a breakthrough that other automakers will scurry to follow.



AP

The new Cadillac logo is shown on the 2015 ATS coupe during its debut at media previews during the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2014.

■ **2015 Cadillac ATS coupe:** Cadillac keeps its sights locked on BMW with this sleek two-door. The ATS coupe is lighter and boasts more torque than BMW's new 428i coupe on a neighboring stand. Look for more ver-

sions of the ATS in the future as Cadillac challenges BMW and Mercedes in each segment. A high-performance V-series is near certain to follow, a convertible looks likely and even a sport wagon is possible.



■ **2015 GMC Canyon:** General Motors is betting the 2015 GMC Canyon and Chevrolet Colorado midsize pickups will attract buyers who'd like a little more capability without the parking headaches and gasoline bills a fullsize pickup brings. Small pickups were an American favorite for years. If the Canyon rekindles that flame, watch for more to come.

The 2015 GMC Canyon is unveiled during media previews for the North American International Auto Show, Sunday, Jan. 12, 2014, in Detroit.

AP



AP

The 2015 Chrysler 200 sedan is unveiled, Monday, Jan. 13, 2014, at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, Mich.

■ **2015 Chrysler 200:** This sleek midsize sedan is the most compelling reason Chrysler merged with Fiat. The 200's new modern chassis, nine-speed automatic transmission and upscale interior wouldn't exist without Fiat's expertise at fuel-

efficient cars. The 200 combines the best of the company's American and Italian talents. It may be Chrysler's best ever bid to compete with leading midsize sedans: Ford Fusion, Honda Accord and Toyota Camry.



MCT

The Infiniti Q50 Eau Rouge concept vehicle is revealed to the media during the 2014 North American International Auto Show held at Cobo Center in downtown Detroit on Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2014.

■ **Infiniti Q50 Eau Rouge concept:** Based on Infiniti's Q50 sport sedan and named for a famous corner in Formula 1 racing, the Eau Rouge isn't much more than a body kit and a paint job, but what a paint job! Its deep, glistening red would make a candy apple

blush in embarrassment. The car started with a regular layer of silver paint and Infiniti added 24 layers of barely red-tinted clearcoat to create the remarkable finish. The concept also features carbon fiber body panels and aerodynamic parts.



■ **Toyota FT-1 concept:** Toyota desperately wants its cars to be as exciting as they are reliable. Styled in Toyota's Caltex studio in southern California,

the FT-1 concept is a response to president and CEO Akio Toyoda's demand for passionate designs. The name translates roughly to "Future Toyota—Ultimate,"

and the body blends elements of previous sporty models like the Celica with touches from the current Scion FR-S and an expected future Supra.

The Toyota FT-1 concept is unveiled during media previews during the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, Monday, Jan. 13, 2014. AP



DETROIT FREE PRESS/MCT

The Mercedes-Benz Concept S-Class Coupe is displayed during the 2014 North American International Auto Show in Detroit, on Monday, Jan. 13, 2014.

■ **Mercedes-Benz S-class coupe concept:** Arguably the most drop-dead gorgeous car at the show, the low, sleek two-door version of the S-class luxury sedan is officially a concept, but Mercedes insiders say it's a near dead ringer for

the upcoming production model.

The S-coupe's glamorous lines, shimmering paint and hand-sewn silk carpets are reminders of why Mercedes was the king of automotive luxury for decades.



AP

The Hyundai Genesis is unveiled at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, Monday, Jan. 13, 2014.

■ **2015 Hyundai Genesis:** The award-winning 2009 Genesis is a tough act to follow, but Hyundai pulled it off with dramatic new proportions and top-flight features. The sport sedan's long

hood and roof create an impression of power and more room. Hyundai says prices will start below \$40,000 and available features will include automatic braking and head-up display.



AP

The new 2015 Kia K900 is introduced at the Los Angeles Auto Show on Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2013, in Los Angeles.

■ **2015 Kia K900:** Ambition, thy name is Kia. The big elegant K900 sedan declares the Korean automaker's intention to challenge luxury brands. The K900 shares its platform with the stuffy Hyundai Equus, but its modern looks are pure

Kia. Features include power reclining rear seats and an eight-speed transmission.

Despite its doggy name and the oddball chrome portholes in its front fenders, the K900 is a car to take seriously.



AP

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder checks out the 2015 Ford Mustang during a walk through of the auto show on Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2014 in Detroit.

■ **2015 Ford Mustang:** This new Mustang improves just about everything about the original pony car, just in time for the Mustang's 50th anniversary. The deceptively long hood makes the Mustang appear larger, but the 2015 is actually 0.2 inch shorter. From the independent rear suspension to an EcoBoost four-cylinder engine to high-end interior materials, the coupe and convertible at the show are full of surprises.

And don't miss the white 1965 Mustang convertible near the entrance to Ford's stand. It's number 001, the first Mustang ever built. Tourists from around the world visit the Henry Ford in Dearborn to see it, but this week it's at the North American International Auto Show.

Mark Phelan is the Detroit Free Press auto critic. He can be reached at mmphelan@freepress.com.

Life & Style

Fallon to begin 'Tonight' run with Will Smith, U2

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—Jimmy Fallon's "Tonight" show, which debuts next month with actor Will Smith and U2 as guests, will look familiar to people who appreciate his current work in the time slot following Jay Leno.

Fallon said he doesn't expect to change his brand of comedy to tailor himself to an earlier time slot. Fallon and his successor at "Late Night," Seth Meyers, met with reporters Sunday as NBC begins the delicate process of a late-night transition.

"This show has completely changed from when I first started," Fallon said of "Late Night," which he has hosted for five years. "I feel like we've

blossomed into what will become the new 'Tonight' show."

He rejected the idea of changes to make himself more appealing to an older, middle American audience that likes Leno. It's a delicate subject at NBC, where executives believe Conan O'Brien's limited appeal doomed their first effort to replace Leno. The executives anticipate Fallon's light-hearted comedy translating better.

Leno closes his two-decade run on "Tonight" Feb. 6 with Billy Crystal and Garth Brooks as guests. On Feb. 17, Fallon debuts a week's worth of shows at midnight following NBC's coverage of the Winter Olympics. He moves into his regular

time slot a week later, followed by Meyers, who has "Saturday Night Live" chum Amy Poehler booked as his first guest.

NBC's entertainment president, Robert Greenblatt, said he'd like to keep Leno at NBC, perhaps to host regular specials. Fallon said he's not worrying about whether Leno leaves NBC and decides to keep working in late-night TV elsewhere.

Fallon said he called Leno when he got the "Late Night" job to reassure him he wasn't gunning for Leno's gig. He said they have spoken regularly, and he's taken some of Leno's advice, most prominently to make his nightly

monologues longer.

"He's a good guy," Fallon said. "He's really treated me well."

Fallon's "Tonight" show "should be goofy and fun and make everybody laugh. That's our job," he said. He said he appreciates showing different sides of celebrities by getting them involved in skits or games, like when Tom Cruise

cracked two raw eggs on his head. Fallon's musical skits are among his most memorable. He said he alerted New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie's office ahead of time about his recent duet with Bruce Springsteen that spoofs Christie's traffic jam scandal.

Although Fallon is moving "Tonight" to New York from

the West Coast, he said he will take the show on the road—including to Los Angeles for a couple of weeks a year.

Some critics have noted that the formal title of the show is changing from the "Tonight Show With Jay Leno" to the "Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon." Fallon said it was an homage to the show's roots.

Fallon and Crystal among Leno's final guests

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—Jay Leno will close out his 22-year run as host of NBC's "The Tonight Show" with a nod to the future and to the past.

His heir apparent, Jimmy Fallon, will kick off Leno's final week with a guest appearance on Feb. 3. Fallon is taking over the gig after hosting NBC's "Late Night" since 2009.

Leno's final night, on Feb. 6, will feature Billy Crystal, who was Leno's first guest in May 1992 when he succeeded Johnny Carson. Country superstar Garth Brooks will also appear.

Leno's last week will also include Betty White, Mat-

thew McConaughey, Sandra Bullock, country singer Blake Shelton, musician Lyle Lovett and NBA Hall of Famer Charles Barkley.

Fallon starts his run on Feb. 17 during the second week of the network's Olympics coverage. As a result, the "Tonight Show" will air at midnight following the nightly games coverage from Sochi, Russia. On Feb. 24, the show will revert to its regular 11:35 p.m. slot.

Leno left the show in 2009 to host a prime time talk show, with Conan O'Brien replacing him on "Tonight." After six months of poor rat-

ings for both men, O'Brien was out at "Tonight" and Leno returned to his old gig.

NBC Entertainment president Robert Greenblatt is hoping to continue the network's relationship with Leno after he leaves late night.

"I would love him to do specials with us, and we've got ideas about other sorts of shows he can host," Greenblatt said Sunday at the Television Critics Association meeting. "As he told me recently, NBC has really been his only home."

He said Leno didn't want to discuss his future until he finished his final week.



This Jan. 13, 2013, file photo shows presenters Jimmy Fallon, left, and Jay Leno posing backstage at the 70th Annual Golden Globe Awards at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif.

NBC renews 'Parks & Recreation' for 7th season

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—The future is looking bright at NBC for Golden Globe winner Amy Poehler, not so much for Michael J. Fox.

NBC entertainment president Robert Greenblatt said Sunday that Poehler's "Parks & Recreation" will be back for a seventh season next fall. Poehler, host of last week's Golden Globe ceremony, won a Globe for best comedy actress for her role as a small town bureaucrat.

NBC also signed a production deal with Poehler and committed to making a pilot for a comedy that she is writing, tentatively titled "Old Soul."

Greenblatt, at a news conference, couldn't hide his disappointment with the performance of Michael J. Fox's Thursday comedy—"The Michael J. Fox Show"—although he made no official comment about its prospects beyond this year.

With an average of just below 4 million viewers this season,

those prospects can't be good. The Nielsen company said the episode that aired Jan. 9 was seen by 3.1 million viewers.

"We like that show, we like Sean Hayes' show, too," Greenblatt said. "We're really unhappy that we can't find an audience for them in those time periods."

Greenblatt said Fox's comedy, which mirrors the actor's own life with him portraying a television personality returning to work with Parkinson's Disease, may be moved around NBC's schedule to find a new home. "I don't know if that's going to do much," he said.

The entertainment executive would not comment on reports that NBC is interested in bidding for a package of Thursday night NFL games. Once NBC's strength, Thursday has become a black hole in the network's schedule. Meanwhile, its Sunday night NFL games are huge ratings-grabbers.

"We love the NFL," Greenblatt said. "We'd love to have more NFL games."

Greenblatt said NBC has learned lessons from last winter, when the network followed up a promising fall with a disastrous ratings performance. Airing the Winter Olympics in February will obviously make this year different, but NBC is putting on more original programming when the games are not being broadcast—including "The Black List" this month and starting a new run of "The Voice" directly following the Olympics.

Following a trend also taking place at other networks, NBC said it has ordered two new miniseries. "Emerald City" will be based on the Frank L. Baum books that inspired "The Wizard of Oz." The other one is "The Slap," a miniseries based on an Australian project where a family is pulled apart after an incident where a man slaps another couple's misbehaving child.

'Ride Along' rolls into No. 1 spot at box office

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Ride Along" arrived in first place at the weekend box office.

The Universal buddy cop comedy featuring Kevin Hart and Ice Cube debuted with \$41.2 million, according to studio estimates Sunday. The strong opening for "Ride Along" marks the biggest debut for a film released during Martin Luther King Jr. Day weekend and puts it on track to top the \$40.1 million record set by the 2008 monster movie "Cloverfield" for the biggest opening of January.

"It certainly appears with business at this level and with a CinemaScore of A and our exit polls supporting that, it's safe to say we'll break a few records," said Nikki Rocco, head of distribution for Universal.

"Ride Along" is the first starring role for Hart, whose box-office status has been on the rise since the success of his 2013 stand-up film "Kevin Hart: Let Me Explain" and memorable stints in such movies as "Think Like a Man," "This Is the End" and "Grudge Match."

"He's everywhere it seems," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for box-office tracker Rentrak. "I know he was co-starring with Ice Cube in 'Ride Along,' but this really was marketed as a Kevin Hart movie. There's no question he's a movie star now who doesn't require any qualifications before his name."

In second place, Universal's Navy SEAL drama "Lone Survivor" starring Mark Wahlberg, Taylor Kitsch, Emile Hirsch and Ben Foster earned \$23.2 million in its second weekend in wide release, bringing its domestic total to \$74 million.

Open Road Films' animated film "The Nut Job" featuring the voices of Will Arnett and Brendan Fraser opened in third place with \$20.6 million.

The weekend's other major new releases, Paramount's spy series reboot "Jack Ryan:

Shadow Recruit" and the Fox horror flick "Devil's Due," respectively opened in fourth and seventh place.

"Jack Ryan," which stars Chris Pine in the titular role, debuted with a disappointing \$17.2 million. The film directed by and also featuring

Kenneth Branagh performed better overseas, where it nabbed \$22.2 million in 29 international markets.

"Devil's Due" featuring Zach Gilford and Allison Miller as parents expecting their first child amid spooky occurrences birthed \$8.5 million in its opening weekend.

Several films nominated for Academy Awards last week received a bump at the North American box office following their nods on Thursday, including "American Hustle" in sixth place with \$10.6 million, "August: Osage County" in eighth place with \$7.6 million and "The Wolf of Wall Street" in ninth place with \$7.5 million. "The Wolf of Wall Street" also scored \$27 million in 19 international territories.

The best picture contenders "Gravity," "Captain Phillips," "12 Years a Slave" and "Dallas Buyers Club" were all

rereleased in theaters this weekend following their Oscar nominations. "Gravity" is up with "American Hustle" for the most trophies with 10 nominations each at the 86th annual ceremony set for March 2.

"The Oscars definitely have an impact on studios' decision-making process," said Dergarabedian. "These are movies that would normally be played out, finished, pretty much done in terms of box office, and now they're getting a completely new lease on life."

1.	"Ride Along,"	\$41.2 million.
2.	"Lone Survivor,"	\$23.2 million (\$6 million international).
3.	"The Nut Job,"	\$20.6 million.
4.	"Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit,"	\$17.2 million (\$22.2 million international).
5.	"Frozen,"	\$12 million (\$24.6 million international).
6.	"American Hustle,"	\$10.6 million (\$12 million international).
7.	"Devil's Due,"	\$8.5 million (\$2 million international).
8.	"August: Osage County,"	\$7.6 million (\$13 million international).
9.	"The Wolf of Wall Street,"	\$7.5 million (\$27 million international).
10.	"Saving Mr. Banks,"	\$4.1 million.

Director Alfonso Cuarón tries TV for first time

**Lithgow, Molina
show longtime
love at Sundance**

PARK CITY, Utah (AP)—John Lithgow said playing Alfred Molina's longtime lover in the film "Love is Strange" was "just like falling in love with this man."

The veteran actors portray a couple who marry after 39 years together in the Ira Sachs film that premiered Saturday at the Sundance Film Festival.

Once wed, one of the men loses his job as a music instructor at a Catholic school and the couple is forced to sell their apartment to survive financially. They end up living apart, staying with friends and family until they can remedy their situation. All the while, the couple comforts each other and has fun together.

"What I feel is really a success of the film," Sachs said, "is that these two men create the history of a 40 year relationship with all the texture."

Lithgow and Molina have been friends for 20 years but this is the first time they have worked together.

"I just knew this was going to work so wonderfully," Lithgow said. "I knew we were going to be a great old couple."

"So much of this grew out of Fred's and my old friendship," he continued, "and the things we discovered, the layers of new friendship."

NBC will do live remake of 'Peter Pan'

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—Following up on the success of "The Sound of Music" last month, NBC said Sunday that it will broadcast a live version of "Peter Pan" in December.

It will be produced by the same team, Craig Zadan and Neil Meron, that made "The Sound of Music" with Carrie Underwood. The live musical reached 19 million viewers, surpassing even NBC entertainment president Robert Greenblatt.

No cast members were announced on Sunday.

"I have some dream choices, but I don't want to talk about it before approaching them," Greenblatt said.

"Peter Pan," which opened on Broadway in 1954, has a strong history with NBC. The network aired a live broadcast of the show from its own studios in 1955 with Tony Award-winner Mary Martin in the title role and most of the original Broadway cast, reaching 65 million viewers. That was a record for television at the time.



PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—Oscar-nominated director Alfonso Cuarón is trying television for the first time, teaming with producer J.J. Abrams on a new series.

The two have known each other for about 20 years, and Abrams was eager to work with Cuarón. Cuarón is up for a best director Oscar for "Gravity," the category he won at the Golden Globes.

Cuarón concocted the idea for "Believe," debuting March 10 on NBC, while shooting "Gravity" with Sandra Bullock and George Clooney. He contacted Abrams, who came aboard as co-executive producer for the series starring Delroy Lindo, Kyle MacLachlan and Jamie Chung.

Cuarón joked Sunday to the Television Critics Association that after working in space, he wanted to do something where people weren't floating. The series revolves around a 10-year-old girl with supernatural powers who's pursued by sinister forces.

Alfonso Cuarón poses with the award for best director for "Gravity" in the press room at the 19th annual Critics' Choice Movie Awards at the Barker Hangar on Thursday, Jan. 16, 2014, in Santa Monica, Calif.

AP

Jane Lynch returns to host 'Hollywood Game Night'

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—Jane Lynch's hosting duties on "Hollywood Game Night" are an extension of the bashes she tosses at home.

The "Glee" star says she likes creating and hosting a space for her friends to have fun.

"When I have a party, I usually spend it in the kitchen cleaning up and making sure people have a good time," she said Sunday. "This job is perfect for that skill-set."

Sean Hayes, her friend and the show's co-creator, added, "She has a very caretaking personality."

Lynch returns for the NBC game show's second season on Monday night, with back-to-back episodes that include celebrities Rosie O'Donnell, Alyssa Milano and Mario Lopez. Fifteen new party games will be played, along with some

holdovers from last season.

Hayes ("Will and Grace") came up with the show's premise based on the game nights he hosts at home.

He told the Television Critics Association meeting that celebs are now calling up the producers asking to be on the show, which features two contestants on teams with celebrities playing games for the chance to win \$25,000.

Among the games is one in which a contestant uses as few words as possible to describe a topic, like the Oscars, that their teammates try to guess.

Lynch and Hayes said Jason Sudeikis of "Saturday Night Live" fame was among the most competitive celebrities who've been on the show.

Contestants and celebs who get eliminated can take solace in the functioning, on-set bar. Without naming names, Lynch said a



Lynch

few guests have overindulged.

Hayes said NBC recently ordered 10 additional episodes. Variations on the teams, including pitting casts from different shows or spouses against each other, are being discussed.

The show's success has spawned board and card games that will be released this year.

Wiig mainstay for Hader in 'Skeleton Twins'

PARK CITY, Utah (AP)—Bill Hader and Kristen Wiig are accustomed to sharing the same stage—and keeping a crowd in stitches—since starring on "Saturday Night Live" together from 2005 to 2013. But in their new film "Skeleton Twins," they get melodramatic.

Playing estranged, suicidal twins in the film that premiered at the Sundance Film Festival on Saturday, the pair tackles heavy inner demons. Milo (Hader) is a newly single aspiring actor, while Maggie (Wiig) can't seem to settle into her first healthy marriage with Lance (Luke Wilson).

"This being my first drama and also the biggest role I've had in a movie, it was nice having her there supporting me and keeping me relaxed," said Hader at the film's post-premiere party of reuniting with Wiig.

Hader, who is making a successful push toward film, as many "SNL" alums have also done, says he likes shooting a film more than live television.

"I love that you have more than one take," he said. "'SNL' is always one take and it's live all over the country. It was nice having a longer process."

Back to Sundance with Wiig for the second time after their

film "Adventureland" showed at the festival in 2009, Hader says he plans to catch a few screenings, just not of his own film.

"I can't watch myself," he admitted. "I get self-conscious with the way I look and sound, and I don't want that to affect my acting. I don't want to go 'Oh I can't do that because I look so weird. But my wife was kicking me saying 'You really should have been at the screening (today) because it played so well.' 'SNL' engrains in you to enjoy it that night and then have a new idea the next day, but this is really cool."

Vets deserve thanks even when it seems unwelcome

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I just read the letter from "Twice Bitten in Washington" (Nov. 4), who had thanked veterans for their service to our country and received several negative responses. I'm a retired vet, dying from Agent Orange poisoning. I served two tours in Vietnam, and when I returned from Nam, I was called a baby killer, spat upon and refused taxi service because I was in uniform.



Dear Abby

America has had a change in attitude since the Vietnam War. Today, many folks appreciate what the military is doing. I have been thanked several times while wearing my Vietnam Veterans hat and it makes me feel great, to the point my eyes water.

Tell "Twice Bitten" to continue thanking the military vets. It means a lot, especially to vets like me. Sure beats being called a baby killer.

VIETNAM VET

DEAR VIETNAM VET: I received many letters like yours from Vietnam vets who were also not thanked for their service when they returned home. Like you, they very much appreciate hearing a "delayed" thanks for their service. I would like to thank you and all the readers who responded to that column with such emotional and sometimes gut-wrenching stories. Read on:

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I would like to offer "Twice" an explanation for the reaction she received. I served two tours in Iraq and lost some good friends. When vets return home from war, home is a scary place. The life we lived and breathed is no longer. After spending so much time fearing the unknown and protecting ourselves physically and emotionally, we can't stop.

Many of us came home feeling guilty that we lived while others died—ashamed that we might not have done enough, that we should have been the one who was laid to rest, that maybe if we had looked harder, fought harder, we wouldn't have lost a soldier.

When I returned home, I reacted the way "Twice" described. I was resentful that someone would take the time to honor me, but not the friends I lost. It was a long time before I realized that by honoring me with their sincere thanks, they were honoring every soldier we have ever lost. Now when I am thanked, I shake hands, I hug, and I thank them for their respect.

To "Twice": Never stop! Do not be afraid. We are not hateful or angry. We are scared and sad. Your expression of thanks means more than any parade, any medal or any award could ever mean.

BRANDON IN INDIANA

DEAR ABBY: As a soon-to-be-retired career Army officer, I am one of those who feel awkward when people thank us for doing our jobs. The Army was a career I chose, knowing the hardships and what would be asked of me. The military is filled with all kinds of people, and even though I may not always be in the mood for a stranger to approach me when I'm out and about, deep down inside it is refreshing to know that what I do is appreciated.

PHIL IN WASHINGTON STATE

DEAR ABBY: One day while walking in a cemetery, we saw an elderly gentleman leaning on the arm of his caregiver, and we realized he was looking at a veterans memorial. My wife approached and asked if he was a veteran. He looked at her and said "Yes," and she said, "Thank you very much for your service and your bravery." He immediately teared up and croaked out a "Thank you." His caregiver rolled her eyes.

My wife got into her face and said, "You have a hero on your arm, so show him some respect!" The veteran cried harder, grabbed my wife's hand and said, "No one has ever said that to me, ESPECIALLY my caregiver."

KIMIT IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR READERS: May I suggest some other ways to thank vets and those currently in the military? Volunteer at a veterans hospital and bring flowers and toiletries. If you live near a base, volunteer to support the USO at your local airport to make travel more comfortable for our servicemen and women. Donate to Wounded Warriors or similar organizations, or the Veterans of Foreign Wars or Disabled American Veterans.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

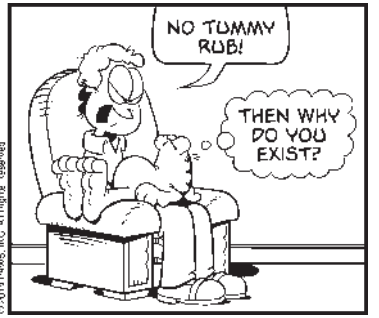
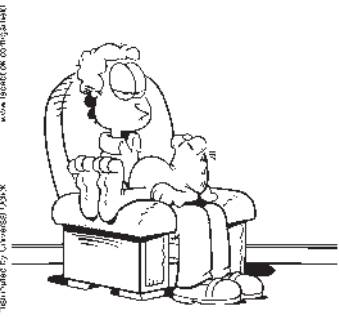
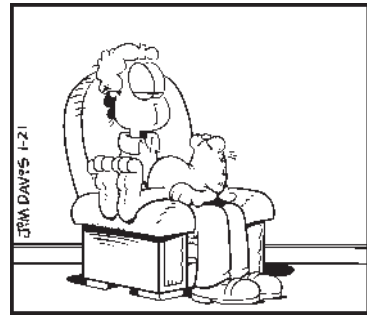
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

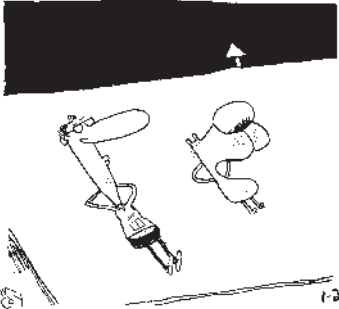
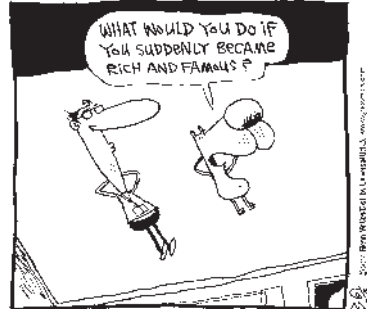


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Pack down
5 Mangy mutt
8 Stitches
12 Mayberry moppet
13 Past
14 Award for 21-Across
15 Stop signal
17 McNally's partner
18 Weeding tool
19 Kam-pala's country
21 Madison Avenue type
24 Winter fall
25 Lather
26 "Impending danger" signal

DOWN

37 With 38-Across, pre-emptive attack
38 See 37-Across
41 Lemieux milieu
42 Swag
43 Clara Barton's organization
48 Initial stake
49 Work with
50 Syngman of South Korea
51 Harbor structure
52 Sch. group
53 Top-rated

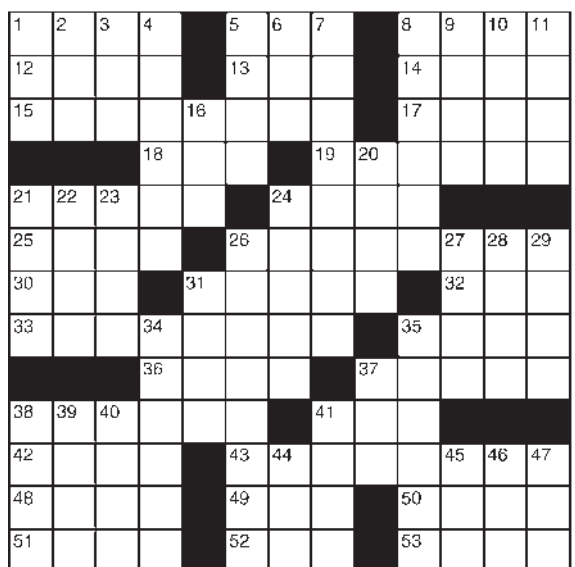
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2 Gorilla
3 Central
4 "The Taking of — 123"
5 Zoo
6 "That tastes awful!"
7 Domed buildings
8 Lousy handwriting
9 Verve
10 Kite flier's need
11 Pop
16 Charged bit
20 Target
21 Somewhere out there
22 Finished

23 Hotel staffer
24 Suit material
26 Second-place finisher
27 Watchful one
28 St. Louis team
29 Nincom-poop
31 Rock legend
34 Restaurant employee
35 Mountain range
37 Radio watchdog org.
38 High-five, basically
39 Author Morrison
40 Memory method
41 Concept
44 "Guinness Book" suffix
45 Cry of discovery
46 D.C. address (Abbr.)
47 Witness

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterday's answer 1-21



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Boo-boo Stewart, 20; Ashton Eaton, 26; Emma Bunton, 38; Geena Davis, 58.

Happy Birthday: Put the effort in to stabilize your life. Protect what you have and make moves that will ensure your happiness. A change in the way you do things and how you deal with and treat your peers will set the pace for what's to come and where you will end up. Don't let the past keep you from moving forward. Your numbers are 6, 9, 16, 21, 29, 33, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take a practical approach to everything you do and you will eliminate criticism and ridicule. Self-improvements that boost your confidence will get you moving down a positive path. Don't let partners dictate your actions. Equality is required to make a relationship work properly. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Do your own thing. Make choices based on what you want, but don't tell others what they should do. You'll get the most mileage if you are honest about what you want and if you refrain from being stubborn, demanding or excessive. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Use your wisdom, past experience and creative imagination to lead you to victory. Charm coupled with finesse and mystery will make socializing fun and bring about new friendships and opportunities to do things differently. Keep your spending to a minimum. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Make choices based on your abilities. Minor adjustments to your residence may upset someone if you don't ask first. A window of

opportunity will enable you to present what you have to offer and gain support. Listen to someone with experience. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You'll face frustrations at home, but that shouldn't stop you from exploring new interests or connecting with people who share your desires. Travel and get involved in partnerships, but don't push your luck when dealing with authority figures. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Make plans with friends or sign up for an interest, course or event that is conducive to socializing. You'll find out valuable information if you watch what happens to people in similar situations. Romance will improve your love life. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Make subtle changes at home, but don't go over budget. Talk to experts about your plans. Getting started will be much easier if you have local support from people in the know. Aggressive action will change the dynamics of a personal relationship. ★★★

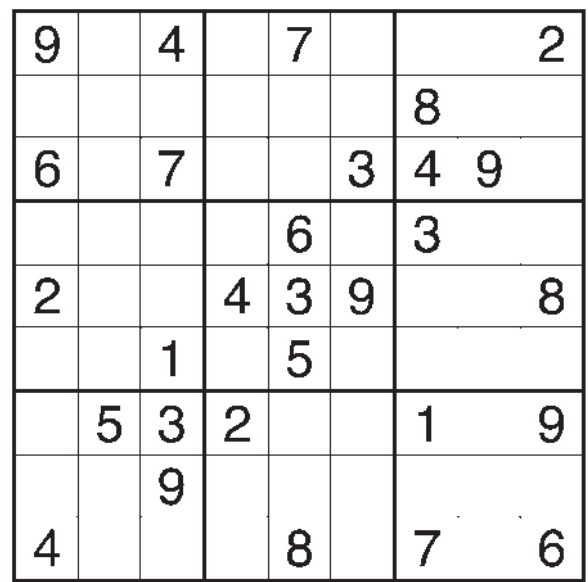
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Shutting someone out will not solve the problem. Take a physical approach by doing things that reflect the way you feel. An emotional change will alter your financial situation. Travel will open up a new friendship with someone you respect. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Keep your emotions in check and out of business deals. It's important to be innovative, but you also have to be shrewd if you are going to get your way. A change in the way you live will be costly but pleasing. ★★

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



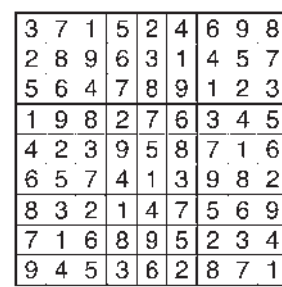
Difficulty Level ★★

1/21

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★

1/21

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):



You'll have an opportunity to start something new, but before you jump in, make sure you are doing it for the right reason. Taking on too much will backfire, costing you mentally, physically and financially. Don't make unnecessary changes. ★★★★★



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):



Put more emphasis on sealing a deal. Make your move and show everyone how ready, willing and determined you are to accept and follow through with important personal change. Discipline and hard work will bring unexpected rewards. ★★★★★



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):



Offer your assistance and you will raise your profile as well as encourage offers from people who can help you expand your own interests; however, don't take anything or anyone for granted or a disagreement or loss will broadside you. ★★



Birthday Baby: You are astute, caring and practical. You are determined, intense and mindful.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

HIS NAME IS JACK

Solution: 9 letters



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Abbott, Apple, Audio, Barakat, Bauer, Bean, Black, Brabham, Branning, Campbell, Chan, Cheap, Clubs, Coach, Cracker, Daniels, Dawson, Dempsey, Duckworth, Farmer, Flap, Frost, Hearts, Hit the Road, Jill, Knife, Lake, Layton, McFarland, O'Connell, O'Neill, Osbourne, Phone, Rabbit, Reacher, Reilly, Ryan, Samurai, Shepherd, Slap, Sprat, Union, White, Wolfman

Yesterday's Answer: Reflection

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 27, 31, 35, 36, 37 or 38 call 1-800-642-6490. Order online at wonderword.universaljclick.com. (Contains 43 puzzles.)

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Royal Thai Massage is looking for 8 Masseuses with 1 year experience. Green card or Us Citizen preferred. Please call 234-2521.

(2) Fishermen, (4) Sales Representatives. Minimum salary. Send Resume to SMJ Corporation. P.O. Box 503944 Saipan MP 96950.

2 Online Merchants. Experience w/ resume required. Salary \$5.55/hr. Les Oshiro 233-6970.

1-Tailor or Seamstress. Must have related job experience. Email resume at susansantoscastro@gmail.com

EMPLOYMENT

1 Commercial Cleaner. Extensive experience and references required. Contact Pacific Rim International at 234-9351.

(2) Waiter/Waitress, \$5.55/hr, send resume to MTO Maintenance (Saipan), Inc. P.O. Box 504053, Saipan MP 96950.

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We buy used cars! Accepting all make and models from 97' & up. Call 287-8688 DPA CAR MART.

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Classified Ads

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REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Job Vacancy Announcement

Strategic Gaming Solutions, Inc. has immediate job opening for the following position:

General Manager, Electronic Gaming (1)

Position Summary: Plan, direct, coordinate, and manage the entire operations of an e-gaming machine lounge, divisions, departments and/or all operating units. Plan, develop and maintain systems and procedures for operating efficiency. Manage staff for optimum performance. Ensure compliance with all applicable CNMI and Federal laws and adherence to and maintenance of policy of confidentiality within the gaming operation. Produce maximum revenue levels. Perform other duties as assigned or as required.

Position Requirement: Bachelor's degree in Business Administration or related field and a certificate in gaming operations plus demonstrated experience & ability in managing an e-gaming operation, evidenced by several years managing live table games or e-gaming machines operation or several years of successful work experience in one or more gaming operations and must be computer literate; ability to communicate effectively with guests, team members and management in both written and verbal form and the ability to handle multiple tasks; Knowledge and experience in strategic planning; marketing, brand reinforcement; networking, stakeholder communication; financial management, forecasting, budgeting; team building and development; staff management, mentoring and motivation; organizational, coordination and time management; complete all documentation accurately in accordance with standards and applicable local and federal laws. Ability to work any shift or hours including evenings, holidays, and weekends; highly motivated, organized, outgoing, with excellent and leadership skills.

Compensation: Salary rate to be commensurate with qualification, work experience, and ability to perform.

Job Location: Saipan and at all offices or e-gaming/digital gaming lounges of the corporation.

Application: Applications may be obtained from the Mita Travel, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan. Deadline for submission of completed applications is January 24, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

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Fina Sisu Terraces
Small 1-BR, 1-BTH. Unit approximately 284 sq.ft. **\$250/month.**
2-BR, 1-BTH. **\$350-\$550/month.** Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted.

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Seahawks rally, beat 49ers 23-17 for NFC title



SEATTLE (AP)—Richard Sherman did a CenturyLink Leap.

Golden Tate grabbed a 12th Man flag and circled the field with it.

Even team owner Paul Allen made an appearance and gave a victory speech.

The Seattle Seahawks are headed to the Big Apple for the Super Bowl.

"To see all our work that we put in—the mornings, the nights, the weights, all your life, as a young player and in the NFL," Malcolm Smith said after his end zone interception with 22 seconds remaining clinched the 23-17 victory over the San Francisco 49ers on Sunday. "It's amazing."

Seattle's top-ranked defense forced three fourth-quarter turnovers, and Russell Wilson threw a 35-yard touchdown pass on fourth down for the winning points. Seattle will meet Denver (15-3) for the NFL title in two weeks in the New Jersey Meadowlands. It's the first trip to the big game for the Seahawks (15-3) since they lost to Pittsburgh after the 2005 season.

The conference champs had the best records in the league this year, the second time the top seeds have gotten to the Super Bowl in 20 seasons. It also is a classic confrontation of Denver's record-setting offense led by Peyton Manning against the NFL's stingiest defense. Denver opened as a 1-point favorite over Seattle on the Glantz-Culver Line.

"It will be a great matchup," coach Pete Carroll said. "I think it's an extraordinary opportunity to go against a guy that set all the records in the history of the game."

Moments after Sherman tipped Colin Kaepernick's pass to Smith for the interception, the All-Pro cornerback jumped into the stands behind the end zone, saluting the Seahawks' raucous fans. With 12th Man flags waving everywhere, and "New York, New York" blaring over the loudspeakers, CenturyLink Field rocked like never before.

"That's as sweet as it gets," said Sherman, who also went into several rants about 49ers wideout Michael Crabtree, whom he called a "sorry receiver."

"This is really special," added Carroll, who has turned around the Seahawks in four seasons in charge. "It would really be a mistake to not remember the connection and the relationship between this football team and the 12th Man and these fans. It's unbelievable."

San Francisco (14-5) led 17-13 when Wilson, given a free play as Aldon Smith jumped offside, hurled the ball to Jermaine Kearse, who made a leaping catch in the end zone.

Steven Hauschka then kicked his third field goal following Kam Chancellor's pick, and Smith intercepted in the end zone on the 49ers' final possession.

"This feels even sweeter, with the amazing support we have had from the 12th Man," Allen said, comparing this Super Bowl trip to the previous one.

Until Seattle's top-ranked defense forced a fumble and had two interceptions in the final period, the game was marked by big offensive plays in the second half. That was somewhat shocking considering the strength of both teams' defenses.

And those plays came rapidly.

Marshawn Lynch, in full "Beast Mode," ran over a teammate and then outsped the 49ers to the corner of the end zone for a 40-yard TD, making it 10-10.

Kaepernick then was responsible for consecutive 22-yard gains, hitting Crabtree, then rushing to the Seattle 28. His fumble on the next play was recovered by center Jonathan Goodwin, who even lumbered for 2 yards.

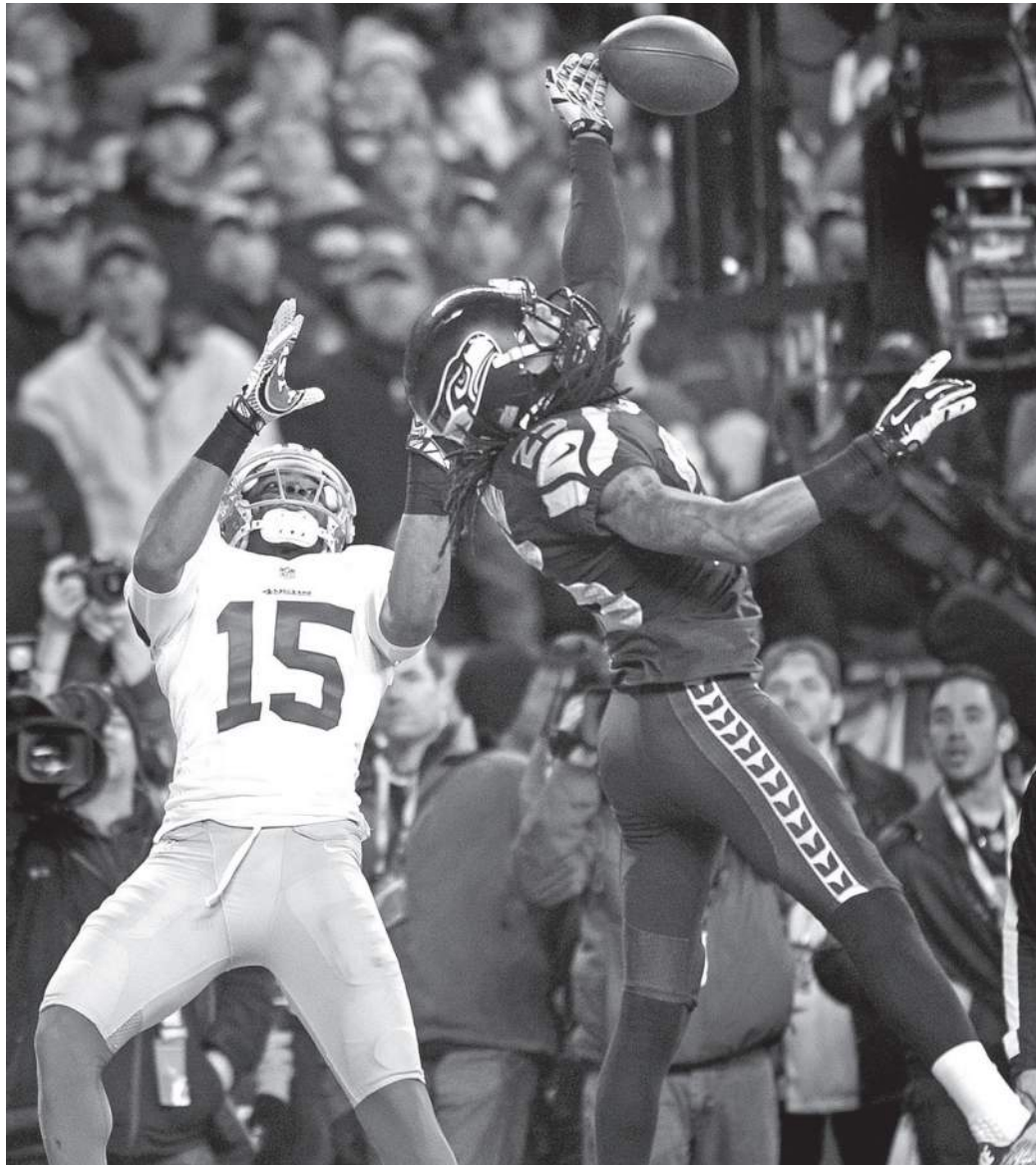
Anquan Boldin outleapt All-Pro safety Earl Thomas on the next play for a 26-yard touchdown.

Then, Doug Baldwin, who played for 49ers coach Jim Harbaugh at Stanford, stepped up—and through San Francisco's coverage—on a scintillating 69-yard kickoff return that made the stadium shake for the first time all day.

That set up Hauschka's 40-yard field goal. And a frantic finish.

Seattle took its first lead on Wilson's throw to Kearse with 13:44 left, and CenturyLink rocked again.

The place went silent soon after when Niners All-Pro linebacker NaVorro Bowman sustained an ugly left knee injury midway and was carted off. Bowman, who was having a huge game, had



Seattle Seahawks cornerback Richard Sherman (25) hits the ball away from San Francisco 49ers wide receiver Michael Crabtree (15) and is intercepted by Seattle Seahawks outside linebacker Malcolm Smith (53) during the NFL football NFC Championship game, Sunday, Jan. 19, 2014, in Seattle.

forced a fumble at the San Francisco 1, but Lynch recovered.

"I never heard him yell like that, or even stay down for a moment," teammate Patrick Willis said of Bowman.

The Seahawks had gotten their first turnover moments earlier when Cliff Avril stripped Kaepernick and Michael Bennett recovered. But Lynch and Wilson botched a handoff on fourth down on the play after Bowman's injury.

It took only two plays for Chancellor to haul in Kaepernick's underthrow to Boldin, and Hauschka's 47-yarder ended the scoring.

But not the excitement.

Kaepernick, who rushed for 130 yards, got San Francisco to the Seattle 18 with his arm. But his pass for Crabtree was brilliantly tipped by Sherman to Smith.

"We knew it would come down to us in the back end to win this thing," Sherman said.

The final play was similar to last year's Super Bowl ending, when Kaepernick missed Crabtree in the end zone from the 5 and Baltimore survived.

"It's tough. Any time you get this close to the Super Bowl and lose, it's pretty upsetting," tight end Vernon Davis said. "We just didn't get it. We've been down this road before in the same kind of situation. It's hard."

Whether it was nerves or just a great play by Aldon Smith, Wilson fumbled on Seattle's first snap. Smith got credit for a sack and a recovery, too—a defender's dream—at the Seahawks 15.

More staunch defense followed, this time by Seattle, which held and only gave up Phil Dawson's 25-yard field goal.

Seattle simply had no answers for Kaepernick's runs, looking either flat-footed or plain-out lost when he took off. He gained 98 yards on the ground in the first half, including a 58-yard second-quarter run, the longest of his three-year career and the longest Seattle's defense allowed all season.

But he was less effective in the second half and was plagued by turnovers.

Wilson came up with a huge improvisation of his own moments after Kaepernick's long jaunt.

Wilson avoided the rush with some nifty scrambling before spotting Baldwin behind the defense for a 51-yard pickup.

All it resulted in was Hauschka's 32-yard field goal, making it 10-3.

Baldwin finished with six receptions for 106 yards.

And now it's on to New Jersey, where Carroll once coached the Jets for a season. That didn't end well—he was fired so the team could hire Rich Kotite. He heads back with a chance to add a Super Bowl crown to two national titles as coach at Southern California.

"It's quite a magical moment," Carroll said. "You can't really grasp the moment. Did we really do this?"

Yep—the Seahawks and their 12th Man.

Broncos 26, Patriots 16

In Denver, Peyton Manning stuffed the football into his helmet and handed it to an equipment man for safekeeping.

The connection: Flawless, as usual.

The keepsake: Certainly one he'll want to hang on to.

The Broncos quarterback had an answer for everyone Sunday—from Tom Brady to the New England defense to anyone who thought he couldn't win the big one.

Manning is taking the Broncos on a trip to New York for the Super Bowl after another of his impeccably crafted victories—this time, a 26-16 win over the Patriots on Sunday in the AFC title game.

"Being in my 16th season, going to my third Super Bowl, I know how hard it is to get there," Manning said.

Especially this time.

Only three years ago, he could barely grip a football as he started the long comeback from surgeries that ravaged his neck and nerve endings. And only 53 weeks ago, he suffered a devastating loss to Baltimore in the divisional playoffs that derailed what looked like a Super Bowl trip in his comeback season.

But Manning will get his chance for a second Super Bowl ring, after all. He'll try to become

the first starting quarterback to win one with two different teams, at the Meadowlands on Feb. 2 against the Seattle Seahawks, who beat San Francisco 23-17 in the NFC title game.

"He's been remarkable," said Broncos coach John Fox, off to his second Super Bowl as a head coach. "It's unprecedented what he did."

After packing away his football, Manning ran to the 30-yard line to shake hands with Brady. A bit later in the locker room, he celebrated with his father, Archie, and brothers Cooper and Eli, the Giants quarterback who surprised Peyton much the way Peyton surprised him by showing up at the NFC title game two years ago.

The Indy-turned-Denver quarterback improved to 5-10 lifetime against Brady, but is now 2-1 in AFC title games.

"I have a lot of respect for him," Brady said. "Certainly, he's a great player and he played great today."

Though Manning threw for 400 yards, it was more dink-and-dunk than a fireworks show in this, the 15th installment between the NFL's two best quarterbacks of a generation. Manning set up four field goals by Matt Prater and put his stamp on this one with a pair of long, meticulous and mistake-free touchdown drives in which nothing came cheap.

He geared down the no-huddle, hurry-up offense that helped him set records for touchdown passes and yardage this season and made the Broncos the highest-scoring team in history. The result: 93- and 80-yard touchdown drives that each lasted more than seven minutes; they were the two longest, time-wise, of the season for the Broncos (15-3).

The Broncos held the ball for 35:44. They were 7 for 13 on third-down conversions.

"To keep Tom Brady on the sideline is a good thing," Manning said. "That's something you try to do when you're playing the Patriots."

Manning capped the second long drive with a 3-yard pass to Demaryius Thomas, who got inside the overmatched Alfonzo Dennard and left his feet to make the catch. It gave Denver a 20-3 lead midway through the third quarter.

From there, it was catch-up time for Brady and the Pats (13-5), and they are not built for that—at least not this year.

"We got in a hole there," Brady said. "It was just too much to dig our way out."

A team that averaged more than 200 yards on the ground the last three games didn't have much quick-strike capability. Brady, who threw for most of his 277 yards in comeback mode, actually led the Patriots to a pair of fourth-quarter touchdowns. But they were a pair of time-consuming, 80-yard drives. The second cut the deficit to 26-16 with 3:07 left, but the Broncos stopped Shane Vereen on the 2-point conversion and the celebration was on in Denver.

"Losing is never easy," Patriots defensive lineman Rob Ninkovich said. "But when you have somebody as talented as (Manning), who puts in as much work and effort, and has done it for so long, it's a little bit easier to swallow."

The trip to New York, where it figures to be at least a tad cooler than Sunday's 63-degree reading at kickoff, will come 15 years after John Elway rode off into the sunset with his second straight Super Bowl victory.

The Broncos have had one close call since—when they lost at home to Pittsburgh in the 2005 season's AFC title game—but what it really took was Elway's return to the franchise in 2011. He slammed the door on the Tim Tebow experiment and signed Manning to a contract, knowing there were risks involved in bringing to town a thirty-something quarterback coming off multiple operations to resurrect his career.

Even without Von Miller on the field, Elway put enough pieces in place around Manning to move within a game of the championship.

Thomas. Wes Welker (four catches, 38 yards). Eric Decker (5-73). Tight end Julius Thomas (8-85).

"It's been a terrific group," Elway said as he hoisted the AFC championship trophy. "They worked their tail off all year."

Manning knows how to make the most of all the options he's been given.

Young scores 29, Lakers beat Raptors, 112-106



TORONTO (AP)—Nick Young returned from suspension to score 29 points, Pau Gasol had 22 and the Los Angeles Lakers beat the Toronto Raptors 112-106 on Sunday, just their third win in 15 games.

Young, who was suspended for Friday's victory at Boston after throwing a punch at Phoenix's Goran Dragic last Wednesday, scored 14 points in the fourth quarter as the Lakers overcame a 19-point first-half deficit. They won back-to-back games for the first time since beating Memphis on Dec. 17 and Minnesota on Dec. 20.

Ryan Kelly scored 17 in his first career start and Kendall Marshall had 10 points and 11 assists. The Lakers reached the midway point of the season with a record of 16-25.

DeMar DeRozan scored 23 points, Kyle Lowry had 21 and Patrick Patterson 17 as Toronto's six-game home winning streak came to an end.

The Raptors, who won 106-94 at Los Angeles on Dec. 8, failed to record the first season sweep over the Lakers in franchise history.

Amir Johnson had 13, Greivis Vasquez 11 and Terrence Ross 10 for the Raptors, who have never won consecutive home games against the Lakers.

Vasquez made a hook shot, then stole a pass from Jodie Meeks and, after a pair of misses, banked in a jumper to put the Raptors up 94-91 with 6:42 left.

Young's 3-pointer with 3:40 to go gave the Lakers a 100-96 lead, their biggest of the game to that point, causing Toronto to call timeout.

Amir Johnson later fouled Kelly on a 3-point attempt, and the rookie calmly drained all three free throws to give Los Angeles a 105-101 lead with



Los Angeles Lakers center Pau Gasol (16) and guard Nick Young (0) smile as they walk off the court after defeating the Toronto Raptors 112-106 in NBA basketball action in Toronto, Sunday, Jan. 19, 2014.

1:58 remaining.

Young's third 3-pointer of the fourth quarter put Los Angeles up 108-103 with 1:21 to go.

The Raptors led 50-31 with 7:33 left in the second quarter. But Wesley Johnson hit back-to-back 3-pointers as the Lakers rallied to cut the gap to 58-54 at halftime.

Magic 93, Celtics 91

In Orlando, Florida, Arron Afflalo had 20 points and 13 rebounds, and Tobias Harris

added 18 points as the Orlando Magic snapped a season-high 10-game losing streak with a win over the Boston Celtics.

After several ties in the fourth quarter, Harris hit a pair of free throws with 10.1 seconds remaining to give Orlando the victory.

The win also ends 10-game regular-season losing streak to the Celtics.

Glen Davis added 17 points and Jameer Nelson 16 for Orlando.

Boston has lost nine straight games on the road and 11 of 12 overall.

Jeff Green led the Celtics with 22 points, and Avery Bradley and Kris Humphries added 18 apiece. Rajon Rondo had six points and four assists in his second game back from a torn ACL.

Suns 117, Nuggets 103

In Phoenix, Channing Frye scored a season-high 30 points before sitting out the final 9½

minutes to watch Phoenix wrap up its romp over Denver.

Frye, who missed all of last season for treatment of an enlarged heart, made 12 of 16 shots, 5 of 7 3-pointers, to fall three points shy of his career high.

Markieff Morris scored 16 and Goran Dragic 15 for the Suns, who never trailed and improved to 3-0 against Denver this season with one game to play.

Anthony Randolph scored a season-best 19 for the Nuggets, who have lost four of five

and were without guard Randy Foye because of a stomach virus. Evan Fournier, Ty Lawson and Wilson Chandler added 17 points apiece for Denver.

Thunder 108, Kings 93

In Oklahoma City, Kevin Durant scored 30 points to lead Oklahoma City past Sacramento.

Durant, coming off a career-high 54 points Friday against Golden State, shot 10 for 15 from the field and had nine assists. He scored at least 30 points for the seventh straight game.

Serge Ibaka added 20 points and Reggie Jackson had 16 for the Thunder, who won their third straight.

Isaiah Thomas scored a career-high 38 points for the Kings, but he slowed in the second half as the Thunder pulled away. DeMarcus Cousins added 16 points and 14 rebounds for Sacramento.

Rudy Gay scored just six points for the Kings and was ejected after picking up two technical fouls in the fourth quarter.

Spurs 110, Bucks 82

In San Antonio, Patty Mills had 20 points and Tim Duncan had 11 points and 13 rebounds in limited action as San Antonio kept Milwaukee winless in the new year.

Marco Belinelli scored 14 points, Jeff Ayres and Nando De Colo had 13 points apiece, and Kawhi Leonard added 11 points in 21 minutes for San Antonio.

Brandon Knight scored 21 points, Giannis Antetokounmpo added 11 points and John Henson had 10 points and 11 rebounds for Milwaukee, which has lost nine straight.

San Antonio was without starters Tony Parker and Tiago Splitter, former starter Danny Green and 3-point specialist Matt Bonner.

Patrick Reed holds on to win Humana Challenge



LA QUINTA, Calif.

(AP)—Patrick Reed found his putting touch right when things started to get interesting in the final round of the Humana Challenge.

After shooting three straight 9-under 63s to open a seven-stroke lead, Reed had a 1-under 71 on Sunday at PGA West's to beat Ryan Palmer by two strokes.

"A lot tougher than the first three rounds," Reed said. "My speed was off today. I left a lot of putts short. It seemed like the first three days the ball was just trickling over the front edge, and today it seemed like it came to a screeching halt."

Finally resembling the guy who talked Saturday about being in a "putting coma," Reed ran in an 18-footer for birdie on

the par-3 15th to push his lead to three strokes.

"It felt comfortable. It felt great," Reed said. "I was able to play the last three holes just for par rather than trying to make birdies or trying to make something happen."

He did par the last three to finish at 28-under 260 in the three-course event that he opened and closed on the Arnold Palmer Private Course.

The 23-year-old Reed has two victories in his first 46 PGA Tour starts, winning the Wyndham Championship in August. He jumped from 69th to 41st in the world ranking, enough to lock up a spot in the 64-man Match Play Championship.

"I always play to try to prove to everybody that I belong out here," Reed said. "As well as, I belong, not only out here on the PGA Tour, but also with the

best players in the world."

Reed took a call from former President Bill Clinton—the tournament is run in partnership with the Clinton Foundation—during his interview session.

"He told me to get myself back in that zone more often," Reed said. "Because he said it was a lot of fun to watch."

Palmer made a 15-foot eagle putt on the final hole for a 63.

"What can you do with what Patrick did this week?" Palmer said. "It's ridiculous what he did. Amazing how good he played. We'll come up a couple short, but it was a win in my game because I was playing for second today."

Zach Johnson and Justin Leonard tied for third at 25 un-



Reed

der. Johnson birdied the final five holes for a 62, the best round of the week.

"I got red hot at the end," Johnson said.

The Kapalua winner is taking a four-week break.

"Hopefully, I can maintain where I'm at," Johnson said.

Leonard parred his last two for a 65.

"Would love to have made a few more putts," Leonard said.

Other than the 18-footer on No. 15, the longest putt Reed holed was a 5-footer for par on the par-4 13th. That was a crucial putt after he played the previous eight holes in 1 over with four bogeys and three birdies.

"I knew that if I didn't make that putt, then it was going to get interesting," Reed said. "To

make that putt kind of gave me a little bit more fire saying, 'All right, well, we're running out of holes for people to make a lot of birdies.'"

Reed missed two 6-foot par putts and an 8-footer and dropped another stroke with a poor bunker shot on the par-3 12th.

"It would either just stop just short, or it would break at the very end and break off the planet and lip out," Reed said. "It seemed like nothing would go in."

On Saturday, Reed broke the PGA Tour record for relation to par for the first 54 holes, finishing at 27 under. He also became the first player in tour history to open with three rounds of 63 or better. On Sunday, he became the second player in the event to lead wire-to-wire, joining 1977 winner Rik Massengale.

"To have a day where I felt like I had probably about my C or D game and still shoot under par, and to close off a vic-

tory, that means a lot to me," Reed said.


Reed's wife, Justine, is pregnant with their first child, forcing her to turn over caddie duties to her brother, Kessler Karain. She has walked every hole this year and plans to caddie again after the baby arrives around Memorial Day.

"I can't wait to be a dad and have a little girl running around," Reed said.

After helping Augusta State win NCAA titles in 2010 and 2011, Reed drew attention in 2012 when he successfully Monday-qualified for six events. He earned his tour card in December 2012, surviving six rounds of Q-school at PGA West.

"We have worked so hard at it," Reed said. "Especially, with my wife and I, how hard we have worked the past 2 1/2 years, through Q-School, through the Monday qualifiers, and through here to get two wins in less than half a year."

Sharapova out in another early upset in Australia



MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—With Maria Sharapova following Serena Williams out of the Australian Open in the second upset in 24 hours, attention turned quickly to defending champion Victoria Azarenka’s bid for a third consecutive title.

Third-seeded Sharapova lost 3-6, 6-4, 6-1 to Dominika Cibulkova in a fourth-round match Monday on Rod Laver Arena, struggling with her serve in the second and third sets and making 45 unforced errors as she tried to claw her way back.

Top-ranked Williams lost to Ana Ivanovic on Sunday afternoon, ending her 25-match winning streak and tak-

ing the hottest of title contenders out of the draw.

Losing the rivals ranked Nos. 1 and 3 in quick succession didn’t distract No. 2 Azarenka, who had a 6-3, 6-2 win over No. 13-seeded Sloane Stephens in a match that lacked the drama of their contentious semifinal here last year.

“The players who beat those players deserve all the credit because they’ve been better, so they are dangerous and they are competitive,” Azarenka said. “For me it’s important to just keep focusing on my game. Quarterfinals of a Grand Slam are never easy, no matter who you play.”

Sharapova’s serve started to backfire from the eighth game, when she was broken at love while serving for the set.

During a run of four breaks against

her, Sharapova won only three points on her own serve and fell 5-0 behind in the second set.

The four-time major winner rallied to win four straight games before No. 20-seeded Cibulkova held to level the match. After taking an off-court medical time out after the second set for a hip strain, she was broken immediately and had seven double-faults in the third set.

Sharapova was two tournaments into a comeback from a prolonged layoff with a right shoulder injury, and said her run to the fourth round was a positive sign because she was healthy and back on tour.

“I have to look at the positives and see where I have come from in four or five months. I haven’t played a lot of tennis in those six months,” said Sharapova, who won the Australian title in 2008 and lost two other finals. “So I certainly would have loved to play a little bit more before playing a Grand Slam, but this is the chance that I was given.”

The four-time major winner made it hard for herself in Australia, needing almost 3 1/2 hours to beat Karin Knapp in searing heat the second round—playing 50 minutes between her first and final match points.

Cibulkova had spent just over 3 1/2 hours on court in her first three wins, and went in confidently knowing she’d beaten Sharapova in a Grand Slam quarterfinal before.

“I was never doubting myself,” Cibulkova said, who completed a full set of Grand Slam quarterfinal appearances with her best run yet in Melbourne.

She’ll next play first-time Grand Slam quarterfinalist Simona Halep, who beat former No. 1-ranked Jelena Jankovic 6-4, 2-6, 6-0.

Sharapova may stick around in Melbourne to support her boyfriend, Grigor Dimitrov, who reached the quarterfinals for the first time with a 6-3, 3-6, 6-2, 6-4 win over Roberto Bautista Agut. The 22-year-old Bulgarian will next play the winner of Monday’s later match between top-ranked Rafael Nadal and No. 16 Kei Nishikori of Japan.

Azarenka, meanwhile, was making herself comfortable at Melbourne Park, where she’s on an 18-match winning streak. She had her singer boyfriend Red Foo in the stands, and could joke about engagement rings—which she hasn’t got—in her on-court post-match interview.

“I just love playing here, the surroundings, it feels so cozy ... feels like home,” she said after her win over Stephens. It was a rematch of their semifinal last year when Azarenka took a medical timeout just when it appeared Stephens was getting momentum, then came back and won the match.

In the first set, Stephens accidentally hit Azarenka in the hip area with a shot at the net, and Azarenka sent a forehand whizzing past Stephens a few games later.

There was very little tension, though, after Azarenka broke Stephens’ serve to open the second set and then again to take a 5-2. The second-seeded Azarenka didn’t have any trouble closing out this time, saving one set point before setting up match point with an ace.

Canoe club holds Micro Games tryouts

The Northern Marianas National Paddle Sport Federation will be having tryouts for the national outrigger canoe teams to represent the CNMI in the 2014 Micronesian Games set for July in Pohnpei in the Federated States of Micronesia.

Open tryouts for the men and women will be held Mondays and Wednesdays from 5pm to 6:30pm and Saturdays from 8am to 9:30am.

Paddlers meet at Kilili Beach across from the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. All interested paddlers who meet the Mirco Games participant criteria are invited to try out.

The last day for tryouts is Feb. 1. Paddlers registering after the Feb. 1 cutoff will not be considered for the national teams. Tryouts will be supervised by head coaches Justin Andrews and Dana Okano using methods agreed upon by NMNPSF and the head coach.

Objective criteria will be used to the extent possible. Ultimate selection will be based on athletic performance versus other candidates in timed events, strength events, and endurance events. Other criteria will include experience, leadership, attitude, and attendance. *(PR)*

JETS

From Page 28

Torres’ single and Napu Pua’s walk, respectively. Torres, Pua, and fourth batter Jerome Reyes then loaded the bases, but the Jets failed to score in the ensuing play, as Kenny Diaz was struck out. Andres Camacho was next at bat and hit his target with the ball dropping in between the first and second base and the Fielders right fielder fumbling, losing precious time in picking the ball up and then making a wild throw to second base. The errors allowed Torres and Reyes to run home and finally end the marathon in favor of the Jets.

BRAVES

From Page 28

The Enforcers were scoreless in the first inning and got their only run in the second with Rikko Lizama stealing home. The Enforcers never made it past second base in the remaining four innings, as Alvarez and company hung tough on defense.

Hustlers 9, Comets II 8

In the second game last Sunday, the Hustlers withstood the Comets II.

A seven-run top of the second inning gave the Hustlers control of the match

Comets 7, Jets 2

In last Saturday’s final match, the Comets zoomed past the Jets.

Aurel Mendiola started out for the Comets and gave up only one hit and one run, while striking out three in a four-inning shift. The Comets then used three more pitches in the remaining three innings and kept its tight defense to ground the Jets, who got their first run off a sacrifice in the first inning and the second (unearned) in the fifth.

The Jets clung to the slim 1-0 lead only after the third inning, as the Comets went on to grab the upper hand at the top of the fourth off Jimmy Dema-

pan’s RBI single and Lorenzo Sebaklim’s run off a Jets booboo at second base. The Comets added four more runs, two earned, in the last three innings to win their debut.

Fielders 10, Falcons 9

In the second game, the Fielders survived the Falcons.

Thanks to closer Kimo Angailen, who struck out Jay Kalen for the last out at the bottom of the seventh inning. The Fielders pitcher made the game saver after the Falcons moved within one and the loaded the bases.

The Falcons lost their debut despite a promising 6-0 lead after three and a

half innings. The Falcons gave up the driver’s seat in the next two innings when the Fielders scored nine runs in the fourth and fifth and hung on tight to the top, 10-8, going into the bottom of the seventh.

At the bottom of the seventh, lead-off batter Benen Iguel singled and reached home of fielder’s choice to move the Falcons within one. Jose Pangelinan was next at the plate and walked, while the Falcons’ next two batters were booted out. The Fielders needed only one out to wrap up the match, but failed to get it despite changing pitchers, so they called back Angailen for the finish.

Red Sox 7, Jets 1

In the curtain-raiser, the Red Sox made short work of the Jets, winning the game one inning early.

Derrick P. (last name was not written on the scoresheet) pitched for the Red Sox in 3.1 innings and allowed only two hits and one run. He stranded six runners and struck out five. Jode

In the second round results, Old Timers beat Loco Moco, while MSQ thwarted Beauty and the Beast to join Siyasi and SH’s J.R. Gechig and Tony Yamada in the winner’s bracket quarterfinals. SH advanced after whipping Pickled Ginger’s Athena Andrews and Steve Beyer before losing to Siyasi. With two wins Siyasi made it to the winner’s bracket semis versus the Old Timers, which thwarted MSQ.


MSQ fell to the loser’s bracket, but

Reyes took over the mound for the Red Sox in the last two innings and started his shift with three straight strikeouts, leaving a runner stranded at first base. Reyes got another strikeout in the fifth inning to end the match. The first two outs were made off 1-3 and 6-3 putout plays.

On offense, the Red Sox turned a precarious 2-1 lead after three innings to a 7-1 advantage after bagging three earned runs at the bottom of the fourth inning. The Red Sox scored their first two runs (earned) in the second inning, while the Jets’ lone run, also in the second inning, was unearned.

Survived Pickled Ginger and Loco Moco to keep its finals bid alive and eventually marched into the finals after getting back at Old Timers.

Meanwhile, Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association’s next tournament will be the For the Love of Volleyball, which Hyatt Regency Saipan is sponsoring and will be held on Feb. 8. Next month’s event will have competitions in the men’s and women’s doubles.

 **TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES**

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	20	19	.513	—
Brooklyn	16	22	.421	3½
New York	15	25	.375	5½
Boston	14	28	.333	7½
Philadelphia	13	27	.325	7½

Southwest Division

Miami	29	11	.725	—
Atlanta	20	19	.513	8½
Washington	19	20	.487	9½
Charlotte	17	25	.405	13
Orlando	11	30	.268	18½

Central Division

Indiana	32	7	.821	—
Chicago	19	20	.487	13
Detroit	17	23	.425	15½
Cleveland	15	25	.375	17½
Milwaukee	7	33	.175	25½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	32	9	.780	—
Houston	27	15	.643	5½
Dallas	24	18	.571	8½
Memphis	20	19	.513	11
New Orleans	15	24	.385	16

Northwest Division

Portland	31	9	.775	—
Oklahoma City	31	10	.756	½
Denver	20	20	.500	11
Minnesota	19	21	.475	12
Utah	14	28	.333	18

Pacific Division

L.A. Clippers	28	14	.667	—
Golden State	26	16	.619	2
Phoenix	23	17	.575	4
L.A. Lakers	16	25	.390	11½
Sacramento	14	25	.359	12½

HUMANA CHALLENGE SCORES

LA QUINTA, California (AP)—Scores Sunday from the \$5.7 million Humana Challenge golf tournament played on the par-72 (36-36), 6,950-yard PGA West, Palmer Course (p), the par 72 (36-36), 6,924-yard PGA West, Nicklaus Course (n), and the par 72 (36-36), 7,060-yard La Quinta Country Club course (q):

FINAL ROUND

Patrick Reed (500), \$1,026,000	63p-63q-63n-71-260
Ryan Palmer (300), \$615,600	64p-65q-70n-63-262
Zach Johnson (163), \$330,600	65q-68n-68p-62-263
Justin Leonard (163), \$330,600	66n-67p-65q-65-263
Brian Stuard (110), \$228,000	67q-66n-66p-65-264
Bill Haas (95), \$198,075	65q-66n-67p-67-265
Brendon Todd (95), \$198,075	65n-63p-68n-69-265
Chad Collins (85), \$176,700	68n-68p-65q-65-266
Stuart Appleby (73), \$148,200	66p-69q-67n-65-267
Charlie Beljan (73), \$148,200	68q-64n-68p-67-267
Ben Crane (73), \$148,200	70q-64n-65p-68-267
Charley Hoffman (73), \$148,200	64q-66n-66p-71-267
Russell Knox (56), \$103,740	65n-70q-67n-66-268
Matt Every (56), \$103,740	65n-69p-69q-66-268
Jerry Kelly (56), \$103,740	69q-65n-68p-66-268
Will MacKenzie (56), \$103,740	67n-66p-66q-69-268
Matt Jones (56), \$103,740	66n-67p-66q-69-268
Brendon de Jonge (51), \$74,328	69q-68n-66p-66-269
Luke Guthrie (51), \$74,328	69p-67q-67n-66-269
Scott Langley (51), \$74,328	69q-66n-65p-69-269
Keegan Bradley (51), \$74,328	68p-63q-66n-72-269
James Driscoll (51), \$74,328	69p-70q-67n-64-270
Webb Simpson (48), \$57,000	65p-69q-69n-67-270
Charlie Wi (48), \$57,000	66p-69q-69n-67-271
Ryo Ishikawa (43), \$41,681	69n-67p-67q-68-271
Tyrone Van Aswegen (43), \$41,681	69p-65q-69n-68-271
Martin Flores (43), \$41,681	72p-66q-68n-65-271
Johnson Wagner (43), \$41,681	69n-66p-68q-68-271
Martin Laird (43), \$41,681	65n-71p-70q-65-271
Hudson Swafford (43), \$41,681	72p-65q-70n-64-271
Billy Horschel (43), \$41,681	68q-73q-66n-64-271
Camilo Villegas (36), \$30,780	70n-66p-68q-68-272
Harris English (36), \$30,780	67q-66n-71p-68-272
Josh Teater (36), \$30,780	68n-66p-70q-66-272
Rickie Fowler (36), \$30,780	68q-71n-67p-66-272
Jason Bohn (36), \$30,780	70q-65n-66p-71-272
Bryce Molder (29), \$21,660	69p-72q-63n-69-273
Gary Woodland (29), \$21,660	69p-71q-65n-68-273
Andrew Svoboda (29), \$21,660	69n-69p-66q-69-273
Cameron Tringale (29), \$21,660	68q-66n-70p-69-273
Jeff Overton (29), \$21,660	70q-67n-67p-69-273
Brian Davis (29), \$21,660	69p-71q-66n-67-273
Spencer Levin (29), \$21,660	69n-66q-66n-70-273
Rory Sabbatini (29), \$21,660	68p-67q-67n-71-273
Seung-Yul Noh (29), \$21,660	68n-66q-66n-73-273
James Hahn (29), \$21,660	70p-68q-69n-66-273
Justin Hicks (19), \$13,817	64n-71p-70q-69-274
John Merrick (19), \$13,817	66q-70n-69p-69-274
Kevin Kisner (19), \$13,817	66n-70p-69q-69-274
Brad Fritsch (19), \$13,817	67p-70q-67n-70-274
Scott Brown (19), \$13,817	67p-68q-70n-69-274
Bo Van Pelt (19), \$13,817	70q-68n-67p-69-274
Kevin Na (19), \$13,817	68n-66p-68q-70-274
Brice Garnett (19), \$13,817	67p-69q-68n-70-274
Steven Bowditch (19), \$13,817	71n-67p-68q-68-274
Michael Putnam (19), \$13,817	68q-69n-70p-67-274
Harrison Frazer (8), \$12,198	69n-68p-68q-70-275
Pat Perez (8), \$12,198	69q-70n-66p-70-275
Brandt Snedeker (8), \$12,198	72q-64n-69p-70-275
Davis Love III (8), \$12,198	69p-68q-69n-69-275
Daniel Summerhays (8), \$12,198	64n-69p-73q-69-275
Kevin Chappell (8), \$12,198	70q-70n-63p-72-275
Charles Howell III (8), \$12,198	73n-68p-65q-69-275
Scott Stallings (8), \$12,198	68n-69p-69q-69-275
Jonathan Byrd (8), \$12,198	68p-69q-65n-73-275
Stewart Cink (8), \$12,198	73q-63n-71p-68-275
Lee Williams (8), \$12,198	70n-68p-69q-68-275
Erik Compton (1), \$11,172	70q-66n-70p-70-276
Jim Herman (1), \$11,172	67n-68p-68q-73-276
Blake Adams (1), \$11,172	70p-70q-66n-70-276
Ken Duke (1), \$11,172	71p-70q-65n-70-276
Nicholas Thompson (1), \$11,172	71p-68q-68n-70-277
Chad Campbell (1), \$11,172	71n-70p-66q-69-276
John Senden (1), \$11,172	71n-70p-66q-69-276
William McGirt (1), \$10,659	70n-70q-64q-73-277
Freddie Jacobson (1), \$10,659	71p-68q-68n-70-277
David Lingmerth (1), \$10,431	69q-68n-69p-72-278
Kevin Stadler (1), \$10,431	69n-66p-72q-71-278
Brett Quigley (1), \$10,260	66q-73n-68p-72-279
Scott McCarron (1), \$10,146	72q-69n-66p-73-280
J.J. Henry (1), \$9,975	71n-70p-65q-75-281
Brian Harman (1), \$9,975	69n-66p-72q-74-281
Jhonattan Vegas (1), \$9,804	69n-71p-67q-76-283

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SIYASI

From Page 28

21 triumph to set up a title showdown against Nekaifes and Lizama.

Lizama and Nekaifes managed to keep their clean slate in the annual tournament with the four-point championship win against McCullough-Stearns and Quan. Lizama and Nekaifes started their title bid in the tournament with a victory against

Slyders’ A.J. Hambros and Khohlynn Gechig, while MSQ defeated Beauty and the Beast’ Phalai Frink and Nick Gross. Slyder’s advanced against Siyasi after downing Winkhof’s Jacoby Winkfield and Amber Vanthof, while Beauty and the Beast edged Bad Grass’ Hercia Nekaifes and Icemwar Somorong. Loco Moco completed the first round winners, as it prevailed over Grass Kissers’ Jeane Bracket and Chris Lam.

2013 SBA 8-Ball Open League Winners Part 2

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



Players of Jonny's Crazy 8 pose with the Sportsmanship Award in Tuesday League during the 2013 SBA 8-Ball Open League Awards Banquet held last Jan. 11 at Charley's Cabaret.



The Jokers Homeboyz players pose with the Thursday League third place trophies.



Members of Poseidon Docomo Drunken Hustlers pose with their championship trophy in the Thursday League.



Poseidon 8Ballers players show their runner-up trophies in the Thursday League.



Visiting Guam players pose with Saipan Billiards Association officials and James Lee, right, of tournament sponsor MARPAC, for a group photo.



Jerry Soriano smiles after getting the Thursday League Finals MVP.



Nolan Cultura, left, shares the Tuesday League MVP with Luis Fajardo, who is represented by his wife at the awards ceremony.



R.J. Mascarinas poses with his Tuesday League Finals MVP award.



Joe's Saint Trading players show their second place trophies in the Tuesday League.



**Seahawks rally,
beat 49ers 23-17
for NFC title**

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Saipan Tribune Sports

**Young scores 29,
Lakers beat
Raptors, 112-106**

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28 TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2014

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Jets outlast Fielders in Junior League

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Jets eked out a 17-16 victory in a four-hour game against the IT&E Fielders in the Junior League of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball yesterday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Jets got two runs off the Fielders' errors at the bottom of the seventh inning with only one out to steal the victory. It was the Jets' first this season, as they dropped their opener last Saturday against the Comets.

The Juan Santiago Tenorio and Saipan Shipping-sponsored Jets seemed headed for a 0-2 start when they entered the

last inning facing a 13-16 deficit. The Fielders, who were also downed by three after six complete innings, 10-13, turned the tables of the Jets at the top of the seventh after getting five runs off their foe's miscues and stealing home.

At the bottom of the seventh, Leo Salalila led off for the Jets and had a base hit, while Noel Castro was next at bat and walked. The first two batters went on to score off Nathan

**See JETS on
Page 26**



A Jets pitcher makes eye contact with their catcher before throwing a pitch to the Comets during their game in the Junior League last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Tanapag Braves players wait for the start of the parade of teams during the opening of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball last Friday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Braves edge Enforcers, 2-1

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Tanapag Braves won a low-scoring game against the JPO Enforcers, 2-1, in the Major division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball last Sunday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

Jose Alvarez pitched in no relief

for the Braves and struck out six batters. He gave up only three hits and walked three. Helping Alvarez put the Braves on the win column were Rubin Sablan and Joe Tudela, who hit an RBI double and RBI single at the bottom of the first innings to put their team on top.

See BRAVES on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Siyasi tops grass v'ball tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Siyasi's John Nekaifes and Chenny Lizama went undefeated in the 2014 Reverse Co-Ed Grass Volleyball Tournament to rule last Saturday's competition at the Navy Hill court.

Siyasi secured the championship after a 21-17 victory over MSQ's Clay McCullough-Stearns and Somia Quan. The winning pair was awarded cash and in-kind prizes for topping the 11-team field and is tasked to or-



ganize next year's tournament, which is set for Jan. 17, 2015. Cash and in-kind prizes were also handed to McCullough-Stearns and Quan and Old Timers' Tyce Mister and Heather Kennedy, who rounded out the Top 3.

Mister and Kennedy missed making it to last weekend's finals twice, as they bowed to Nekaifes and Lizama in the winner's bracket semifinals, 21-18. Nekaifes and Lizama went on

to bag the first finals berth and a twice-to-beat advantage in the title match. Mister and Kennedy dropped to the loser's bracket against McCullough-Stearns and Quan, who prevailed in a win-or-go-home match versus Loco Moco's Gabriel White and Linda Anastacio, 21-13.

The battle for the second and last finals seat was neck-and-neck with the much younger pair of McCullough-Stearns and Quan escaping with a 23-

See SIYASI on Page 26

Siyasi's John Nekaifes goes up for a hit near the net, while teammate Chenny Lizama and Old Timers' Heather Kennedy get ready for the next play during their winner's bracket semis match in the 2014 Reverse Co-Ed Grass Volleyball Tournament last Saturday at the Navy Hill court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO